

JPRS-LAM-87-046

11 JUNE 1987



**FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE**

JPRS Report

Latin America

SPECIAL NOTICE

Effective 1 June 1987 JPRS reports will have a new cover design and color, and some reports will have a different title and format. Some of the color changes may be implemented earlier if existing supplies of stock are depleted.

The new cover colors will be as follows:

CHINA.....	aqua
EAST EUROPE.....	gold
SOVIET UNION.....	salmon
EAST ASIA.....	yellow
NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA...	blue
LATIN AMERICA.....	pink
WEST EUROPE.....	ivory
AFRICA (SUB-SAHARA).....	tan
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY.....	gray
WORLDWIDES.....	pewter

If any subscription changes are desired, U.S. Government subscribers should notify their distribution contact point. Nongovernment subscribers should contact the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161.

11 JUNE 1987

LATIN AMERICA

CONTENTS

INTER-AMERICAN

Bolivia Begins Talks With Brazil on Gas Exports (EFE, 26 May 87)	1
---	---

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Airport Probe Takes New Twists; More Charges Leveled (HERALD, 10, 17 Apr 87; OUTLET, various dates)	2
Nedd, Humphreys Actions	2
Criticism of Bird Role, Editorial	4
OUTLET on Bird Denial	6
Progress of Investigation	9
OUTLET Defense of 3 April Story	10
New OUTLET Charges	13
New Cabinet Row	16
ATLU Organ Hits Attitudes Toward Workers, Wage Issue (THE WORKERS VOICE, 11, 29 Apr 87)	19
New Political Manipulation	19
Call for Government Action	20
UNDP Appeals for Support To Turn Bird, ALP Out of Office (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 28 Apr 87)	22

ARGENTINA

Several Areas Declared Economic Disaster Zones (BUENOS AIRES HERALD, 23 May 87)	23
--	----

Holding Company Head Disagrees With Sourrouille (BUENOS AIRES HERALD, 25 May 87)	24
Briefs	
PRC Flood Technology Offer	25
Egyptian Ambassador Presents Credentials	25
Soviet Cooperation Expected	25
Ambassadors Appointed	25
BOLIVIA	
Madrid Reports Spanish Royal Couple's Visit (Madrid Domestic Service, 21 May 87)	26
Miners Announce Roadblocks While Talks Continue (La Paz La Red Panamericana, 26 May 87)	27
Briefs	
Miners Stage Hunger Strike	29
President To Visit Spain	29
Workers Rally Held	29
Illegal Presence of Foreigners	30
BRAZIL	
Sarney Orders Investigation on Public Bidding (FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, 15 May 87)	31
Covas Sees Direct Elections in 1988 as Reasonable (Mario Covas Interview; O GLOBO, 4 May 87)	32
Cabinet Reform, Direct Elections Debate Could Split PMDB (Murilo Melo Filho; MANCHETE, 16 May 87)	36
Finance Ministry Prepares Macroeconomic Plan (O GLOBO, 24 May 87)	39
Briefs	
Antarctic Research Ship Returns	41
Bomb Explodes in Bus Station	41
CHILE	
Cardinal Seen by PCCH as Transition President (NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, 19 May 87)	42
Campusano Interviewed in Sierra Gorda (Rodolfo Sesnic; LA SEGUNDA, 14 May 87)	43
Military Court Sentences Student to Death (AFP, 21 May 87)	45

Carabineros Arrest 10 During Demonstration (Santiago Radio Chilena, 22 May 87)	46
Site of Leftist Executions Revealed (AFP, 25 May 87)	47
Briefs	
Return of Socialists Authorized	48
GRENADA	
Blaize, Former Officials Comment on Differences (THE GRENADIAN VOICE, various dates)	49
Alexis Pre-Registration Interview	49
Griffith Letter to Blaize	53
Resignees' News Conference	54
Critical Assessments of Political Situation Widespread (GRENADA GUARDIAN, 17 Apr 87; THE GRENADIAN VOICE, 25 Apr, 1 May 87)	55
Gairy on Alexis Remarks	55
Gairy on Blaize 'Weakness'	55
Fear of Street Politics	56
Alexis on Blaize 'Deception', by Stephen Andall	56
Brizan on 'Gutter Politics'	57
Criticism of Cabinet Makeup	58
Youths Turning to Gairy for Solution to Unemployment (GRENADA GUARDIAN, 17 Apr 87)	60
Parliament Scene of NNP Dissidents-Government Debate (THE GRENADIAN VOICE, 25 Apr 87)	62
Fishermen Hurting After Being Driven Out of Martinique (THE GRENADIAN VOICE, 7 Apr 87)	64
Havana Medical Graduates Granted 'Qualified' Approval (CANA, 27 Apr 87)	65
Briefs	
Chamber Leadership	66
HAITI	
RDNP Convention Opens, Manigat Speaks Out (Leslie Manigat Interview; HAITI LIBEREE, 24-27 Apr 87)	67

JAMAICA

PNP Statements Outline Policy on IMF Agreement (THE DAILY GLEANER, 20, 23 Apr 87)	75
New Charges Against 'Secrets'	75
How PNP Government Would Treat IMF	76
PNP Continues Push for Elections, Goes on Poll 'Alert' (Franklin McKnight; THE DAILY GLEANER, 21 Apr 87)	78
Columnist Carl Stone Analyzes Seaga, Manley Personalities (Carl Stone; THE DAILY GLEANER, 22 Apr 87)	79
Seaga Reports on Advances in Agricultural Sector (THE DAILY GLEANER, 25 Apr 87)	81
Export Increases	81
Crop Self-Sufficiency	82
Opposition Forces Respond to, Criticize Seaga Budget (THE DAILY GLEANER, 25, 28 Apr 87)	84
Initial PNP Reaction	84
Workers Party Critique	85
PNP Assails Seaga's Budget: Not in Line With IMF Accord (SUNDAY EXPRESS, 26 Apr 87)	86
Seaga, in Budget Debate, Cites Gains From Privatization (THE DAILY GLEANER, 29 Apr 87)	87
JLP Denies Assistance to UWP in St Lucia Election (THE DAILY GLEANER, 29 Apr 87)	89
Columnist Discusses Political Prospects of JLP, PNP (Carl Stone; THE DAILY GLEANER, 29 Apr 87)	90
October 1985-86 Jobless Rate Declines by Over 3 Percent (THE DAILY GLEANER, 28 Apr 87)	93
Damage From Rain, Flooding May Run to Millions of Dollars (THE DAILY GLEANER, 28 Apr 87)	95
Briefs	
Drought Losses	97
Nigerian Delegation	97

MEXICO

Culiacan 'White Guards' Legally Registered (Luz Aida Salomon, Ignacio Ramirez; PROCESO, No 545, 13 Apr 87)	98
--	----

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Venezuelan Envoy Sees 'No Threat' To Port-of-Spain Ties (Andy Johnson; DAILY EXPRESS, 28 Apr 87)	105
Robinson: Oil Alone Not Enough; Diversification Needed (Harry Partap; DAILY EXPRESS, 4 May 87)	106
PNM's Manning Comments on Robinson, NAR Actions, Views (DAILY EXPRESS, 27 Apr, 4 May 87; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 3 May 87)	107
Criticism of Robinson Address	107
Speech to Party Conference, by Ria Taitt	108
Further Details, by John E. Kassie	108
NAR Undergoes Changes; Administration Criticized (DAILY EXPRESS, various dates; THE BOMB, 1 May 87)	110
New Party Constitution	110
Youth-Arm Changes	111
Spending Excesses	111
Tewarie on Bureaucracy	114
House Speaker's Criticism, by Ria Taitt	114
OWTU Official Cites NAR Government, Labor Movement Shortcomings (DAILY EXPRESS, 2 May 87)	116
GUARDIAN Comments on Record of NAR Government So Far (Editorial; SUNDAY GUARDIAN, 3 May 87)	117
OWTU Approves Weekes' Continued Service in Senate (SUNDAY EXPRESS, 3 May 87)	119

/9986

INTER-AMERICAN

BOLIVIA BEGINS TALKS WITH BRAZIL ON GAS EXPORTS

PY262310 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1810 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] La Paz, 26 May (EFE)--Bolivian Deputy Energy Minister Mauricio Gonzales has reported that Bolivia and Brazil will begin talks tomorrow on the sale of Bolivian gas to Brazil, taking into account the problems regarding gas exports to Argentina.

Argentina and Bolivia so far have not been able to renew the contract for the purchase of Bolivian gas. No agreement has been reached regarding price and the amount of gas to be exported. But talks will resume tomorrow.

Gonzales stated that following the talks between Bolivian and Brazilian officials, Energy Minister Carlos Morales will go to Rio de Janeiro in June to confirm the amount of gas to be exported.

In response to sectors that are protesting the sale of gas to Brazil, Gonzales stated that Bolivia has important amounts of hydrocarbons that must be exported to boost national development.

He said that the government of President Victor Paz Estenssoro has made "a firm political decision to promote the construction of a gas pipeline from Bolivia directly to the factories of Brazil."

The deputy minister regretted that deals for gas exports to Brazil "were not firmed up in 1970, when the neighboring country lacked gas and needed it to meet domestic demand."

Gonzalez added that PETROBRAS, the Brazilian state gas company, has discovered important gas deposits in its own country, and that for this reason the reason the prospects for exporting Bolivian gas to Brazil are rather remote.

/12232

CSO: 3348/20

AIRPORT PROBE TAKES NEW TWISTS; MORE CHARGES LEVELED

Nedd, Humphreys Actions

St Johns HERALD in English 10 Apr 87 pp 1, 2

[Text]

The Sir Archibald Nedd's Investigation into the airport controversy, has itself generated much controversy during the past week.

Questions have been raised about some evidence given to the investigation, as well as certain broadcast news items on evidence given before the investigation. But the most telling blow was struck last Friday when the Outlet Newspaper in a front-page article made certain allegations, which Sir Archibald is asking the High Court to deem defamatory and libelous. On top of it all is a press statement issued by Agriculture Minister, Hilroy Humphreys, asking ZDK Radio to apologise for broadcasting a news item, which alleges that he was arrogant when giving his evidence last Friday.

The present controversy was sparked off when ABS Radio broadcast a news item on

March 27, quoting Public Works Minister Vere Bird Jnr. as saying that the then Junior Minister in the Ministry of Public Utilities and Aviation, Henderson Simon, was placed in charge of the negotiations for the airport project. Mr. Simon is said to have been very upset over the news item, and when he was recalled to give further evidence to the investigation, denied stated that at no time was he placed in charge of the negotiations and that they were handled by Minister Vere Bird Jr.

Mr. Humphreys too was recalled to give further evidence last Friday. He told the investigation that while as Minister of public Works in late 1984, the deteriorating condition of the airport runway was brought to his attention and he immediately began a search for a firm capable to carry out the rehabilitation work and at the same time arrange the necessary financing.

According to the Minister, by mid-1985 a firm

based in St. Croix had been selected by Cabinet to do the rehabilitation work, but, before they could begin, they informed him by telephone that a contract was signed with another firm to perform the same task.

He stated that at the next Cabinet meeting he saw a proposal from a French company, Building Finishing Systems, which was having discussions with Minister Vere Bird Jr., in which they were submitting a project document showing cost and work needed to be done. "They were asking for confirmation from cabinet," he added.

Mr. Humphreys told the investigator, "After I saw this document, I made it specifically known to the entire cabinet that from what I saw happening, that I would have nothing else to do with the question of the airport resurfacing, and that I would keep

quiet in Cabinet any time any thing to do with the airport was brought up. I abided by my words until the story broke in Le Figaro in France."

During his testimony, Mr. Humphreys referred to as 'Jokers' all the companies which submitted bids for the contract, including BFS. He said most did not provide engineering data to support the costs, while in the case of BFS, "they came up with a fantastic figure".

The Outlet story, published on Friday, alleges that Prime Minister Bird told the ALP Executive Meeting that he had given certain instructions to Sir Archibald, thus questioning the integrity of the investigation.

On Monday, when the investigation resumed, a visibly upset Sir Archibald informed the Hearing that he was suspending indefinitely hearing of further evidence, "until I have decided

what action to take against Outlet regarding a front-page article in last Friday's issue."

Later in the day, Prime Minister Bird made a press statement denying having made the statement attributed to him and denouncing the article as "the work of communists to destabilize the country."

By Thursday, the investigation resumed with Sir Archibald making a statement in which he Sir Archibald disclosed that legal proceedings are being instituted against Outlet for publishing "destatements about him.

The investigation, now into the final stages is expected to announce its findings shortly.

The following is the statement issued by Sir Archibald:

On Friday 3rd April '87 Outlet printed and published of and concerning me, defamatory words which constitutes a dastardly attack on my character and reputation. The publication was brought to my notice only after I had adjourned sitting until Monday 6th April.

On resuming Monday, I adjourned further hearing until I have consulted my legal advisors what action I would take.

In the meantime, Rt. Hon. V.C. Bird, who in the publication was used as a medium for the purpose of perpetration and assault on my character, in no uncertain language, refuted the allegations made in the Outlet.

Let me state here and now clearly and unequivocally to Antiguan and Barbudans, West Indians and the world to hear, that the Prime Minister has not yet been born who can direct or tell me, Robert Archibald Nedd, 12 years one of her Majesty's Judges, what I should or should not do when operating in a judicial or quasi-judicial capacity. I am jealous, very jealous of the reputation which I have earned for many years of law and arduous labour both at the bar and at the bench. I resent any attempt by anyone to tarnish, for this reason I have caused proceedings to be instituted in the High Court against the parties responsible for publication of the defamatory statement.

Criticism of Bird Role

St Johns HERALD in English 10 Apr 87 p 4

[Editorial: "'Blame Yourself P.M. Bird'"]

[Text]

The integrity of the already much maligned Sir Archibald Nedd's Investigation into the Airport controversy received a serious setback following last week's front page article in the Outlet Newspaper.

The paper attributed statements to Prime Minister Vere Bird as having given instructions to the investigation on what conclusions must be arrived at.

The Outlet's allegations are being taken seriously by both Sir Archibald and Prime Minister Bird. The investigator has suspended indefinitely the hearing of further evidence and Prime Minister Bird hastily called in members of the Press to make a statement denying having made the statement Outlet attributed to him.

The investigation into the expenditure of US\$11.5 million of borrowed money is a very serious matter, and the integrity of the investigation process and the person conducting the investigation must always be above reproach.

No one should be allowed to undermine the integrity of the Investigation with impunity. Therefore, if the Outlet story is a fabrication, as the Prime Minister claims it is, then both himself and Sir Archibald should seek redress through the legal process.

However, this paper cannot but lay much of the blame for what is happening squarely on the shoulders of the Prime Minister. For, it is he as political leader of the ALP, who has allowed even the highest councils of the party to become mere taking shops. The Prime Minister has encouraged the degeneration of the Party's Friday afternoon Executive Meetings to be nothing but a farce where chaos rules the roost.

The executive meetings are now open to all and sundry to attend as part of the Prime Minister's plan to "out-manoeuvre those plotting to overthrow him". Thus, there is no screening process of persons attending executive meetings. You attend at the whim and fancy of the Prime Minister.

The confusion, which is the rule, rather than the exception, continues into the street at the end as each "executive" meeting with a callousness which belies the party's position of a governing party.

The confusion that attends most of the ALP councils are clearly orchestrated by the Prime Minister and his "Kitchen Cabinet" headed by Evita, in the hope that out of all this, eldest son Vere will emerge like a phoenix as the natural leader to take over the helm of the ALP.

But as last Friday's Outlet has proven, even the most carefully planned strategies can go awry.

P.M. Bird will be advised to lead the way to restoring a sense of order and discipline to the party before events consume even him.

OUTLET on Bird Denial

St Johns OUTLET in English 10 Apr 87 pp 1, 2

[Text] **Prime Minister** Vere Cornwall Bird, 77, with head bowed, and eyes glued to his prepared statement, sheep-facedly lied to the nation "denying all charges" that he had told the Executive of the ruling ALP two Friday's ago that he had told Justice Nedd "what to do".

Prime Minister Bird in a clearly unconvincing show in which he appeared tense and not in control of himself simply ranged over the **Outlet** front page exposé. He then characterised the **Outlet's** straightforward reportage of what happened at his Executive meeting as "Communist" and as a further attempt to "destabilise" the government.

Antigua and Barbuda has come to expect that everytime the Bird regime and PM Bird in particular is cornered by ACLM and **Outlet** he screams "Communist" and hides the truth in a plethora of lies.

All thirteen Channels carried the PM's telecast and those that did not carry it no images appeared. The nation was compelled to view and listen.

This time PM Bird could not even manage to twist words so that he could turn "fat" to mean "big and powerful" which he further said meant "competent to manage any country in the world" as he did when he characterised his own Ministers as "fat", as having their "bellies full now" and therefore "neglecting the interests of the people."

This time PM Bird hid behind words which often proved too big. Said he, the **Outlet** report of his own statement to his own Executive, two Fridays ago was "malicious" later it became "defamatory" and finally "scurrilous."

NEDD ON STRIKE

PM Bird's broadcast was prompted **not** in the usual Friday or Saturday response to **Outlet**, but on Monday night, after Justice Nedd, sole investigator into the US\$11 million V.C. Bird International Airport scandal, had virtually called a three day "strike" adjourning the so-called Investigation indefinitely, until he had an official explanation of the front-page story in **Outlet**.

Justice Nedd's response probably surprised PM Bird, and he proceeded to apologise to Justice Nedd **not for what he said at the Executive Meeting** concerning the manipulation of Justice Nedd's Investigation, but for what he did not write in **Outlet**.

PM Bird did not even acknowledge that the Nedd Investigation was discussed at the ALP's Executive meeting on

March 27.

So as to jog Prime Minister Bird's memory we will remind him that the meeting was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird. That he, the Prime Minister, was seated at the far end of the room, wearing no tie, but a jacket.

IRREFUTABLE FACTS

That at the very beginning of the ALP Executive meeting he, Prime Minister Bird, in response to Chairman Lester Bird's opening remarks told the Executive Meeting that Justice Nedd "will clear Vere [Runway] Bird of all allegations" and that he had "spoken to Justice Nedd" and that "none of the Ministers had come to the aid of Vere [Runway] Bird" when the story broke, showing massive fraud, double-dealing and conflict of interest in the US\$11.5 million loan for the resurfacing of the V.C. Bird International Airport.

We did not get and could not confirm the particular remark made by Lester Bird in his Chairman's remarks which triggered PM Bird's angry outburst.

PM Bird also said, that no matter what they do or write (an obvious punch at Minister of Education Reuben Harris) Vere Runway Bird "would be declared innocent" by the Nedd Investigation.

PM Bird should remember that Deputy PM Lester Bird speaking from the Chair as Chairman of the meeting, then rejected PM Bird's allegation that no Minister had supported Vere Bird, and then took issue with his statement that Vere Bird was going to be cleared of all charges by Justice Nedd, and would come out of the Investigation smelling like a rose. Lester Bird charged that this was "undermining" the "independence of the Investigation" at which point V.C. Bird interrupted Lester Bird, with a short statement "me no kay". When Lester Bird continued to argue that what PM Bird had said was an attack on "the integrity of the Investigation" and supported ACLM's charge that the Investigation was "a farce" PM Bird again said, this time in a lowered voice "I say I don't care, man/- me no kay." PM Bird was angry and did not conceal his anger. Finally he said

"what I said, me done say. And that is that".

So as to further jog PM Bird's aging memory we will remind him of what happened next.

STRANGER

When Lester Bird was finished his remarks addressed to Prime Minister Bird directly, he then asked if anyone had anything to say. At which point AT&LU General Secretary Robin Bascus rose. But before he could speak and while PM Bird pouted in defiant silence, Ms Charles rose and charged "there was a stranger in the house".

At this stage attention focussed on a young man from St Mary's who recently returned to Antigua from the USA. The young man claimed that he was there at the behest of Dr Lemuel Sealy.

At this point, Tanny Rose intervened to say that the young man was associated with Dr Sealy, and that since "there were Dominicans in the room, [the young man] could stay because he was an Antiguan."

Deputy PM Lester Bird then said that "Dr Sealy knew the procedures" for inviting someone to the Executive and since these were not followed the young man, the stranger in the house, "would have to excuse himself".

PM Bird has now been provided with the sequence of events and should now be able to recall his own words. After this he should appear on Television. This time apologising to Outlet and the Nation, and admit that he did say he told Justice Nedd what to do, and that Vere Bird will be cleared of all allegations by the Nedd Investigation, and this was the result of his consultations with Justice Nedd.

PM Bird should also be concerned that his categorical denial to the nation

of what he said, in his own person and in his own voice to his own Executive members, makes the entire Executive accomplices in this public deception. All members of Cabinet are members of the Executive of the ALP. All present would thus be direct accomplices in this monstrous deception by PM Bird. They owe the nation the right to tell the truth, and to remind the Prime Minister of what he, in fact said to them.

ACCURATE REPORTING

ACLM and Outlet would also like to let the Prime Minister know that he and other Executive members were stunned "at the accuracy" of the Outlet front page report in the last issue, and that he himself described the Outlet story as "word for word" and insisted that either the room in which the meeting was held "was bugged" or "they [meaning ACLM and Outlet] have somebody in the meeting with a tape". A "bug" could not tell us where he sat and what he wore, nor could a tape. It is acute dissatisfaction in his own Executive which caused us to know, as his own Executive members were shocked to see such callous manipulation of justice, such abuse of power to protect his own - Vere Runway Bird.

We would also like to remind the Prime Minister, whose memory can no longer separate his own falsehoods from the truth of the matter, that this is not the first time he raised the Nedd Investigation in the Executive. Several meetings ago, PM Bird told the Executive

that the Nedd Investigation or Nedd himself [he was not clear] would be paid some \$250,000 dollars. At a subsequent meeting he said "the Nedd thing" his word mark you, would cost over \$500,000 (or over half million dollars) he used both the figures 500,000 and the expression "over half a million".

Prime Minister Bird has now been hoisted on his own petard - to use the apt Biblical expression - that just as he intended to hoodwink and deceive the public with "the Nedd thing", now he has been trapped by his own angry boasting, in that Justice Nedd went on 'strike' for a few days adjourning "the Nedd thing" which PM Bird knew in advance, even before Justice Nedd had written his Report, "would clear Vere Bird of all charges". PM Bird continues his assault against Truth, Fairplay and Justice.

Meanwhile, on ABS Radio it was announced that the Nedd so-called Investigation, which PM Bird labelled "the Nedd thing" resumed yesterday. Apparently Justice Nedd is satisfied with PM Bird's denial of the truth of his own statement "I told Nedd what to do" and as a result, despite no support from fellow Cabinet Members, Vere Runway Bird has already been cleared. All that is needed now, is according to PM Bird's scenario, is the formal report clearing his eldest son Vere Runway Bird. And after that, it's Election time as occurred with Space Research arms to racist South Africa scandal - the Electorate didn't care. PM Bird is relying on the same couldn't care less attitude.

Progress of Investigation

St Johns HERALD in English 17 Apr 87 p 1

[Text]

Despite the barrage of criticism levelled against the three-month old official investigation into the airport scandal, the sole investigator, Sir Archibald Nedd this week took on the appearance of a man with a mission.

The investigation has entered its final stages with no further verbal evidence expected. Secretary to the Investigation Mr. Aubrey Meade, said Sir Archibald is awaiting a report of comparison expenditure on the Sir Grantley Adams Airport Runway in Barbados, which had undergone major rehabilitation prior to the start of the Antigua project. This report is expected in Antigua shortly.

Sir Archibald is also said to be anxious for the appointment of an independent team of local engineers to assess and evaluate the work done on the runway as they relate to the technical aspect of the work as well as the cost factor.

The Investigator wants the team of engineers appointed independently, but he has stressed that they must be qualified.

The formal hearing of verbal evidence was expected to end on Thursday 16th, April with Mr. Cordell Weston, who was the technical co-ordinator in the Ministry of Public Utilities during the discussion on the airport rehabilitation project.

Since the hearing of evidence began on January 26th, a total of twenty-four persons took to the stand to give evidence. These included six Cabinet Ministers Hilroy Humphreys, John St. Luce, Vere Bird Jr., Robin Yearwood, Reuben Harris and Henderson Simon. Other top Government officials to testify include Cabinet Secretary, Lounel Stevens and Financial Secretary, Keith Hurst.

Others to give evidence include officials of several French banks and institutions, as well as representatives of the local banking and legal profession.

According to Mr. Meade, it is hoped that documentation from Barbados would arrive shortly and the team of local engineers named so that, Sir Archibald can begin compiling his report as soon as possible. He anticipates that the notes will take some time to prepare, and that Sir Archibald's report will probably not be ready before another month.

One of the highlights of the investigation was a 45-page Documentary Brief submitted by Education Minister, Harris, who raised certain questions about the handling of the negotiations with the French Banks, as well as raised doubts about the technical competency of the group asked to perform the rehabilitation

work, Building Finishing Limited. Mr. Harris gave evidence behind closed doors, but later declined to give further evidence without given reasons. Mr. Harris is said to have raised questions about the Direction in which the investigation was going.

In recent weeks, the integrity of the Investigation came up for public scrutiny following a newspaper report alleging certain statements to the Prime Minister, which quoted him as saying he had given Sir Archibald "certain directions". This matter is now the subject of a libel suit brought against the paper by the investigator himself, Sir Archibald.

Further controversy was sparked off when Minister Humphreys demanded a retraction by Radio ZDK for stating that he acted in an arrogant

manner when giving evidence.

But the conclusion and outcome of the investigation is perhaps of particular interest to opposition parties, who are stepping up their campaign in anticipation of an early poll.

A UNDP statement said the party is holding its annual convention on April 26th in preparation for a June Election.

Speculation is rife that Prime Minister Bird is hoping that if the investigation clears eldest son Vere Bird of any wrongdoing, then he will use the opportunity to face the poll.

The ALP has been silent on the question of an early poll although its island-wide series of public meetings are continuing.

Observers predict an ALP victory if a snap election is called.

OUTLET Defense of 3 April Story

St Johns OUTLET in English 24 Apr 87 pp 1, 2, 11

[Text]

71 year old jurist, Sir Archibald Nedd said on Radio on April 9, that he had filed a writ for libel against Outlet because of the Outlet front page story of April 3, 1987.

In that front page headline story Outlet reported that Prime Minister Bird had informed the so-called Executive of the ruling ALP that the Nedd investigation into the notorious Airport US\$11 million scandal, would clear his son Vere Bird, even though "no Cabinet member had lent him (Vere Runway Bird) any support".

What Outlet did not say then, was that PM Bird had long before told his Cabinet at a Cabinet meeting that the FAA had cleared his son and the Sir Archibald Nedd investigation would also clear his son - Vere Runway Bird regardless of what others thought, said, or knew.

The Minutes and notes of that Cabinet meeting are written and typewritten and no Cabinet member present then can deny, under sacred oath, that PM Bird said this to the Cabinet in the initial stages of the Nedd Investigation.

ODD ISN'T IT?

Oddly enough, Sir Archibald Nedd consulted only the Prime Minister as to whether or not he made the statement, and did not seek to find out if in fact PM Bird made the statement to the Executive, from any other officer or member of the Executive.

Sir Archibald a distinguished jurist and Grenada Island Scholar, was called to the Bar since 1939 and served in the Caribbean islands as well as in Nigeria as Magistrate - from where he returned unhappily - to take up a position as Judge in the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Courts.

He was the first trial judge in the Bernard Coard murder trial in Grenada, in which Bernard Coard and 17 others were convicted of murdering the much lamented Maurice Bishop and other colleagues.

Sir Archibald never asked Outlet to substantiate its story to him in camera - which Outlet would have gladly done - but proceeded to accept the Prime Minister's public denial that he never said "I told Nedd What to Do". Sir Archibald Nedd, a distinguished jurist, did not wish and certainly did not seek to hear the other side. He accepted the Prime Minister's word without question. However, as Sir Archibald Nedd rightly said in his public statement "for the world to hear" that "the Prime Minister has not been born yet who can direct or tell me Robert Archibald Nedd ... what I should do or not do".

Outlet at no time implied or stated that Sir Archibald Nedd would accept PM Bird's directions or suggestions. But, we insist and will maintain, even on penalty of death, that Prime Minister Bird did tell his Executive that he knew that Vere Bird would be "cleared" by the Sir Archibald Nedd investigation.

Sir Archibald Nedd can also check any member of the ALP Executive - except PM Bird - and they will substantiate that at the ALP Executive meeting on April 3, when the Outlet front page story appeared, there was a discussion as to how Outlet could have got PM Bird's words, "word for word". They speculated that Outlet either had the room at the AT&LU headquarters at 46 North Street, where ALP Executive meetings are held, "bugged" or Outlet had someone there "with a tape". So accurate was the story.

Since then The Herald published by Deputy PM Lester Bird left no one in doubt when it editorialised that the whole crisis of what The Herald termed "the much maligned Sir Archibald Nedd Investigation" could only be blamed on Prime Minister Bird himself. "Blame Yourself PM Bird" boldly and baldly stated The Herald.

The Herald pointedly noted too that "Prime Minister Bird hastily called in members of the Press to make a statement denying having made the statement Outlet attributed to him".

HASTE NOT TRUTH

It takes no great perception or great acumen in jurisprudence to see that the Herald was stating as clearly as it could that V.C. Bird's "denial" of the statements "Outlet attributed to him" was based on "haste" rather than truth. It was a hasty denial, not a truthful denial. The inference is pellucid.

The Herald even taunted PM V.C. Bird himself and found it strange that PM V.C. Bird was not suing Outlet for libel when Sir Archibald was not, and PM V.C. Bird was the sole subject of the article. Insisted the Herald if the Outlet article was a fabrication "as the Prime Minister claims it is" noted the Herald with obvious tongue in cheek, "then both (Prime Minister Bird) and Sir Archibald

Nedd should seek redress through the legal process".

The Herald then proceeded to charge the Prime Minister "for much of what is happening". Since it was he PM Bird, said the Herald, speaking authoritatively, and knowingly, who opened "Executive meetings to all and sundry". The inference is clear. Since all and sundry attend Executive Meetings, then Outlet heard and reported what "sundry" persons at the Executive meeting of the ALP heard the Prime Minister himself say.

And, warned the Herald, concluding on an ominous even prophetic note. "PM Bird will be advised to lead the way to restoring a sense of order and discipline to the party, before events consume even him."

To be sure, it will be an embarrassing day in Court to see Ministers lie in order to cover-up the truth or tell the truth in the service of justice and fairplay. Either way, no one will benefit.

In the whole affair Sir Archibald Nedd made a statement which sounded very odd to most Antiguan and even to PM V.C. Bird. Said Sir Archibald Nedd in his prepared statement "the Rt Hon. V.C. Bird who in the publication [Outlet] was used as a medium for the purpose of perpetration and assault on my character".

THE GREATER MAN

It would seem that Sir Archibald Nedd is of the view that in Outlet's eyes he Sir Archibald, is a greater personage than PM V.C. Bird whom Outlet has always hailed as among the most significant actors in modern West Indian history. So that in order to attack the Great Man Sir Archibald Outlet used the lesser man PM V.C. Bird to get at the greater! Absurd in the extreme.

With the greatest respect we wish to assure Sir Archibald Nedd that we have the highest regard for him in his office

as judge. We would have attended and reported his hearing if he had accepted to serve in a Public Inquiry duly set up under law, but not this Investigation which has no basis in law. In no way would we use the Prime Minister to get at Sir Archibald Nedd. While we are opposed to Prime Minister Bird, he is first and foremost **our** Prime Minister and we respect both his office and his historical personage. However, we are not afraid, and indeed find it necessary to be critical, even severely critical, of the Prime Minister. To claim that we used our Prime Minister to get at a retired judge in a quasi-legal hearing is to be defamatory of our Prime Minister. At any rate, it is a statement which belittles our Prime Minister and exalts the writer of that statement to a self-proclaimed pedestal.

In fact we felt and still feel the Prime Minister's statement at March 27 ALP Executive meeting "severely and irreparably" undermined the independence and integrity of the Sir Archibald Nedd investigation, and that very view, in those very words quoted above was the view of the Chairman of the said meeting, Deputy PM Lester Bird.

It is passing strange that in upholding the integrity and independence of quasi legal hearings that Outlet became the accused. It is Prime Minister Bird, and Prime Minister Bird alone who is to blame for undermining the integrity of "the much maligned Sir Archibald Nedd Investigation". In the immortal words of Lester Bird's Herald, we repeat **"Blame yourself PM Bird."**

WINDOW DRESSING

Therefore wrote the Herald "the official and costly investigation is mere window dressing". And continued, the Herald in print, without a word of objection from the impartial Sir Archibald Nedd: The **"integrity"** of the Investigation "is now seriously questioned and its impartiality, in the eyes of many, is **non-existent**".

That is about as round and complete condemnation of the Sir Archibald Investigation as you can get. Yet the impartial Sir Archibald Nedd made no public response. Were it Outlet and not The Herald which had written the same would he have responded?

And the Herald would not leave the matter there, it spoke directly, even sharply, but definitely correctly to Sir Archibald Nedd himself when it wrote taking a wry dig at Sir Archibald. "One wonders if the Investigator, twelve years as one of Her Majesty's judges, is aware of the great harm those he seemingly hold in high esteem [Prime Minister V.C. Bird, for one] are doing to the momentous task he has been asked to perform".

Sir Archibald Nedd ought to be aware now that it is not Outlet, but "those he seemingly holds in high esteem" who have undermined the integrity of the Investigator and the Investigation, reducing it to "mere window dressing" with "its impartiality, in the eyes of [the overwhelming] many - non-existent."

Who is to blame? PM Bird, says the Herald is to blame. Outlet concurs.

New OUTLET Charges

St Johns OUTLET in English 24 87 pp 1, 2

[Text]

The scandalous Bird regime now seems mired in a series of scandals, which are surfacing like a recurring decimal.

Two weeks ago Cabinet was again face to face with another financial scandal as another Bird Cabinet member tried to take advantage of his ministerial position to push a business interest involving millions to the benefits of his company, his agents and himself.

The new financial scam involves Vere Bird again. Involves the Ministry of Public Utilities from which he was removed in the week of the US\$11 million airport rip-off, in which he was the centre of the grossly inflated project.

This time Cabinet heard that a Texan Company had offered to build Diesel storage tanks at Crabbs for the already inflated Desalting Plant.

The Texan Company offered to build some 7 storage tanks at a cost of US4 million dollars. Minister of Public Utilities Robin Yearwood put the 'tender' from the Texan Company, apparently anticipating routine discussion and approval.

FINANCIAL WIZARD

Then in stepped Vere Runway Bird, the financial wizard in the Bird regime and proud controller of the Bird Regime's Data Bank, which he usurped without their knowledge from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economic Development.

Vere Bird told Cabinet that there was a better proposal.

A company with which he is closely associated and which has a substantial part of the grossly inflated US47 million dollar desalting plant. Foster Wheeler of England had a more advantageous offer.

This English based company, Foster Wheeler, closely associated with Vere Bird's Company and London based partner of Vere Bird, Derek Hugh would supply two tanks with the same capacity as the Texan Company's 7 for US 7 million dollars. That is, US 3 million dollars more than the Texan Company.

Vere Runway Bird then proceeded to persuade Cabinet that his proposal through Foster Wheeler for the Diesel storage tanks at Crabbs was more advantageous to the nation, though US3 million dollars more expensive.

Cabinet, except for Prime Minister Vere Bird, was collectively shocked by this proposal, and were at a loss to follow Vere Runway Bird's reasoning.

One Cabinet Minister mumbled in a stage whisper "you mean after the airport deal, this man so boldface as to come up with this!"

ABOUT FACE

Vere Bird then proceeded to attack the Texan Company, producing a Dunn and Bradd Street Report on the Company from which report he proceeded to read selected data. He never read the part though, which said the Company's record of similar contracts fulfilled on time without cost over-runs.

Ministers then spoke up to say that in effect Vere Bird was usurping the functions of the Minister of Public Utilities, only to be surprised by an about face on the part of Robin Yearwood who began to look favourably on the Vere Runway Bird proposal, which was US 3 million dollars higher than the Texan offer which he himself had put forward.

Cabinet sources claim that there was a sharp exchange between Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird, leader of the Gang [Group] of Eight as Prime Minister Bird has labelled the majority faction in Cabinet, and Minister of Public Utilities Robin Yearwood full-fledged member of the Gang of Eight.

EVITA'S LANGUAGE

Later, after the Cabinet meeting, and because of the clash between Deputy PM Lester Bird and Gang [Group] of Eight member Robin Yearwood, Evita, the live-in companion of Prime Minister Bird, and labelled by Lester Bird's tabloid as the head of the Prime Minister's Kitchen Cabinet, gleefully telephoned friends to say that the dreadful gang of Eight was "up to their neck in their own sh..."

Prime Minister Bird, according to Cabinet sources, did not even bother to conceal his glee that members of the Gang of Eight as he later told the Kitchen Cabinet, were "turning on each other".

At the end of the heated exchange between Ministers Lester Bird and Robin Yearwood,

Vere Bird took the floor again and said that he could get Diesel, for the same Crabbs storage tanks at 1.10 per gallon the same as Rappaport of West Indies Oil had offered.

At this stage an embarrassed Robin Yearwood had to state that the same Texas Company had also put in a bid to supply Diesel for the Crabbs storage tanks when completed at half the price Vere Runway Bird had proposed, that is, 55 cents per gallon.

At this stage Prime Minister Bird asked that discussion be suspended on the matter to allow for further consideration.

PRIVATE EMPIRE

Prime Minister Bird did not ask Vere Runway Bird to leave the room, as he had told the nation is the practice in Cabinet, since a project directly beneficial to one of the Vere Runway Bird's 14 company empire was being discussed.

Prime Minister Bird was forced to publicly state that Ministers were allowed to be shareholders, major or sole shareholders which bid for Government contracts despite their inside knowledge as a member of Cabinet.

The AT&LU has been campaigning against this decision of Prime Minister Bird; but with no effect, preferring instead to go for the scalp of Ron Sanders who was quartered and strung up by the very regime he had served night and day, in fair and foul schemes, so diligently.

CAN'T BELIEVE IT

Cabinet members filed out of the Cabinet meeting two weeks ago dumbfounded that Vere Runway Bird still had his fingers in the Public Utilities pie, and was still pursuing deals advantageous to his business

cronies and his own companies in the very teeth of the V.C. Bird International Airport Scandal which has rocked the Government and the entire ALP to its very foundations.

One burly Cabinet Minister, echoing a famous dub poet, said loudly for Vere Runway Bird to her "Mi' cyaan believe it!" Until it collapses from its deep seated corruption the Bird regime will produce scandal after scandal, as every Government project, every investment, every investor, is made to benefit some Minister or Ministerial company.

Antigua and Barbuda under Vere Bird and Vere Runway Bird and the Bird regime in general is internationally synonymous with corruption and mis-government.

Meantime Cabinet had an Emergency meeting on Wednesday, in which the new Acting Cabinet Secretary, is Cordell Weston, a Vere Bird crony and general factotum in the U.S.\$11 million inflated loan.

Fire and brimstone was expected at this meeting as Vere Bird's company which collects 12½ per cent as agency fees for all purchases made by APUA in England, was expected to be the centre of scrutiny and attack.

The parts to be machined for the broken down generators, which nightly plunge Antigua into darkness, and daily upsets all phases of social and economic existence are to be obtained from England. Minister Robin Yearwood on all sides at the same time, is said to be determined that there will be no 12½ percent "to anybody's Company" to get these spare parts for the generators. He is said to have stated in his characteristic style "that such a Commission is criminal to the nth degree".

St Johns OUTLET in English 1 May 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Two Cabinet Ministers sparked off what could well be a major row, the breaking point, in the strife-torn Cabinet of the Bird regime.

The two Cabinet Ministers officially raised in Cabinet the activities of Miss Angela Cole, a Barbadian imported into the country by Vere Runway Bird, and who has become the reigning guru of government print and electronic media.

Ms Cole comes to Antigua after a chequered career in her native Barbados. There she was involved as an agent in Cuban Barbados trade, selling Cuban oranges and refrigerators in Barbados. Cuba, reports state, are yet to be paid for their refrigerators.

Ms Cole first came to Antigua with, Space Research Corporation, and its arms to racist South Africa via Antigua. Since then, she seems to have struck up a relationship with Vere Runway Bird, who served as legal representative and lawyer for the notorious Space Research Corporation, on which Corporation Miss Cole claims to be "the authority".

Strikingly enough, Miss Cole is reported to have had brushes with the law in Barbados, with drugs being one of the principal points of contention between herself and the law.

The two Ministers in the Antigua Cabinet, stunned Prime Minister Bird when they called for her immediate deportation from Antigua and Barbuda. They saw her as a source of discombobulation and a cause of much confusion in the confusion ridden ruling ALP and as well in the Government.

The two Ministers, Hilroy Humphreys and Henderson Simon were of the view

that it would be improper for Ministers to sue Government media for what they termed "malicious and defamatory" reports aired over government Radio in unedited stories by Miss Cole.

FATHEER COVERS FOR SON

In those circumstances, the two Ministers argued to the Prime Minister that the only proper course of action left is the deportation of Miss Cole, whose reports, in their view, had maligned them as Ministers when she is only a recent resident in the country.

Prime Minister Bird, who holds the Ministry of Information, formerly held by his eldest son Vere Runway Bird, is believed by the Group of Eight, headed by Lester Bird to be holding the Ministry of Information, deliberately and expressly for the purpose of allowing Vere Runway Bird "to use and abuse public media". In effect then, according to sources close to the group of Eight, Vere Runway Bird has only been removed "in name" from the Ministry of Information but in fact still holds, directs and operates the Ministry of Information. One irate member of the Group of Eight termed this "scheme" as "a cheap and lowdown ploy by the Prime Minister."

Since the January shake-up of Jokers in Cabinet Miss Cole has loomed large in the Ministry of Information and has aggravated the bitter friction and faction in the Bird Cabinet.

She was believed to have been the anonymous author of an article in the Nation which lambasted and lampooned Minister of Education, Reuben Harris, who made

history with his compelling and persuasive 45 page Documentary Brief to the Sir Archibald Nedd Investigation. Harris however, was in Jamaica when the issue of Miss Cole's deportation was raised in Cabinet.

TREATMENT OF FOREIGN LACKEYS

The Bird Cabinet has a remarkable habit of embracing people like Ed Joiner, and then deporting them as "foreigners". Miss Cole is but another, and the latest, in the long list stretching from H.G. Dennis to Ron Sanders, whom the Bird regime have used and then disgraced.

One such who recently reversed the normal order is Keith Barnwell. Barnwell who was part of the Bird Government team to rebut Outlet during the Space Research arms to the racist regime in South Africa via Antigua. Later, the same Keith Barnwell, another Guyanese--Barbadian, was declared persona non grata and allegations of drugs were mooted.

Now the same Keith Barnwell having been deported from Antigua in 1984 has returned to Antigua and is on the staff of Vere Runway Bird at a figure reported to be \$4,000 per month!

After his deportation from Antigua, Barnwell for a while down-and-out in Barbados, rose to become Public Relations Officer of the defeated, but then ruling Barbados Labour Party.

Among the schemes he is reported to have hatched for the Barbados elections last year, was one in which, according to Barrow's DLP, he would hire a number of rough-necks to beat up tourists and then blame the beatings of tourists on Don Blackman in particular and Barrow's DLP in general.

Barrow is reported to have got word of this sinister scheme, and asked then Prime Minister Bernard St John to have

this Barnwell inspired scheme scotched. St John agreed with Barrow.

Barbados sources have alerted ACLM that Keith Barnwell could well be in Antigua, after being deported, expressly for the purpose of directing a dirty tricks campaign, for this elaborate salary, against ACLM in particular. Unconfirmed reports state that rough-necks have been recruited to beat up tourists and to lay the blame on ACLM.

The appearance of the deportee Barnwell with his Space Research connections, along with Miss Cole with her Space Research connections, on the staff of Vere Runway Bird the Space Research lawyer, appears strange striking, and definitely sinister, even to some Cabinet members.

Others noted that with the United States Drug Administration activities in the region, a Minister with persons known to have been associated with Drugs on his staff is a gross and serious embarrassment which Antigua and Barbuda cannot afford.

PM Bird is still considering the protest and demands made to him by two of his Ministers for the deportation of the Barbadian press-guru Angela Cole.

Meanwhile the Herald, published by Deputy PM Lester Bird, has attacked Miss Cole and what the Herald termed her "close association" with Vere Runway Bird. The Herald contended that the "electronic media in Antigua have fallen into the dubious hands of Barbadian national Angela Cole, press aide of Minister Vere Bird jr" and claimed that her "overtly biased reports" is part of PM Bird's and Vere Bird's strategy "to deluge" the public with biased reports from the Nedd Investigation "in order to anaesthetise [dull] the senses of the public in anticipation of the Investigator's findings." Consequently, reasoned The Herald "Miss Cole and her assistants" serving as "agents

provacateurs" of PM Bird's faction "have only served to destroy the integrity of the Investigation process and have brought into disrepute the very investigation" by their "over-sell" of Vere Runway Bird's predetermined innocence.

It is almost certain that Ms Cole will be used and then kicked in the pants like Ron Sanders who she was active against. When will she go? In due time, to be sure.

/13046

CSO: 3298/216

ATLU ORGAN HITS ATTITUDES TOWARD WORKERS, WAGE ISSUE

New Political Manipulation

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 11 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] The Unity of Labour Is the Salvation of Our Country [headline].

This slogan has been appearing on the front page of the working people's organ, the Workers' Voice, since its inception over four decades ago. The meaning of the slogan has been adopted and practised by the Labour Movement up until 1967 when some ambitious persons decided to split the movement for their own selfish ends.

This move was immediately hailed by the middle class or better described as the economic elite in our society. They aligned themselves with these un-suspecting trade unionists from the Labour Movement and successfully proceeded to use them in order to remove the Labour Movement from power. This very unfortunate and dark era in our history took place from 1971 until 1976, when at the first opportunity the people got since that terrible February in 1971, they uncerimoniously bundled the mis-fits from office. The Premier was manipulated like a puppet on a string.

He was tricked into getting rid of the working class element around him and replace them with the economic elite of the day. Labour persons like Halstead, Tanny Rose, Jonas and Selvin Walter were all shunted aside, and replaced by middle class aspirants.

While there was hope that those who broke away from the Labour Movement in 1967 would come to their senses and return to the fold, that hope faded with the advent of the 'vultures' into their midst.

History has a way of repeating itself, and while the leaders of the present Labour Movement have been viewing the situation very carefully vowing never to let these opportunists rent them asunder again, nevertheless we are becoming very concerned at the political situation which has been developing over the last couple of months. A new approach has been used by the 'vultures', yes they thrive on the blood of the working class, this time

around. They have formed a political party under the leadership of a middle class arch-conservative, and this time around, the working class is being manipulated from the bottom up, with a token post of Deputy Political Leader being thrown like a bone to a dog, to a leader of a trade union, which has a history of disruption and political failures.

While we are satisfied that the people would take care these political oppor-

tunists nevertheless we are worried that they may succeed in creating a division among leaders in the Labour Movement. While we are certain that the industrial aim in this great movement is as solid as a rock, we however are concerned about our political affiliates. They should take heed now and mend any wounds which may have been created.

The masses are concerned over the behaviour of some of our leaders. Pull your "socks" up now.

Call for Government Action

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 29 Apr 87 p 1

[Text]

The A.T.L.U. has written to the Government chief Negotiator and the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister demanding that negotiations for an increase in the salaries and wages of all non-established workers commence immediately.

The government recently announced that all Government established employers and Parliamentarians would be receiving salary increase effective from 1st January, 1987. Formerly all Government employees, established and non-established alike, were accustomed to receive their increase together mainly on the 1st September every three years or so. However, the government has decided to bring this date forward to the 1st January 1987, for some of its employees. The Union is indeed happy for this move and is therefore

insisting that the non-established workers, who are the lowest paid workers in the country, should also be included with this privilege few and should not be discriminated against.

At a meeting of the Lower House of Parliament on Monday 27th April, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister moved a resolution adopting a bi-partisan committees report on the adjustment of salaries for Parliamentarians. It was also mentioned that a recommendation for an increase in salaries for civil servant has also been agreed to. About a year ago, Ministers of Government voted themselves a 100% increase in their constituency allowances and introduced a new allowance for housing of \$900.00 monthly.

This was changed a few months ago. The housing allowance became part of their basic salaries. While there is no quarrel with a Minister being paid a proper and reasonable salary, it is expected that the non-establish workers, many of whom earn just about the 1981 minimum wage, which put them barely above the poverty line, and who also has families and commitments, must of necessity be paid a proper and reasonable salary also.

The Union expects to have some of the salary and wage categories adjusted and all increase re-troactive from 1st January, 1987. Other improvement in conditions of work would be negotiated later on, to be effective from 1st September 1987 at the expiration of the old contract.

The A.T.L.U. expects the Cabinet would take heed and act accordingly. A wink from Jubba makes Betsy understand.

/13046

CSO: 3298/216

UNDP APPEALS FOR SUPPORT TO TURN BIRD, ALP OUT OF OFFICE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Apr 87 p 5

[Text]

ST JOHN'S, April 27, Cana—ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA'S opposition United National Democratic Party (UNDP) has called for "solid" support from its members to launch an effective campaign for a change of Government here, whenever the next general election is called.

Party leader, Dr Ivor Heath, told a UNDP convention yesterday that he was expecting a mandate to take Antiguan and Barbudans to freedom.

There has been speculation here that the ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP) of Prime Minister Vere Bird will call a snap general election mid-year, shortly after the close of an official investigation into a multi-million-dollar Government-financed airport improvement project that has been the centre of a major scandal.

Elections are constitutionally due in 1989.

Speaking on the subject, "Freedom: the Past, Present and Future," Dr Heath said he was concerned primarily with the development of a nation and people whose educational, health and agricultural needs had not been looked after properly.

"If we had a Government that ruled out corruption, ruled out financial mismanagement, and stuck to planning and fiscal responsibilities, we already have the financial resources in Antigua to develop this island in the interest of all of its people," the UK-trained surgeon said.

System Of Patronage

"Freedom has survived to now, and if we allow fear to kill it, we will lose the battle that our forefathers fought for," Dr Heath added.

He criticised what he called a system of patronage which he charged the Antigua Labour Party had developed, instead of one of ability.

He said that system was "killing our island," because only those people who worked for certain politicians were able to "move forward" in the country.

Dr Heath dismissed criticism that the convention was simply a pre-election exercise, but said it would, nevertheless, put the party in a stronger position to face the polls at anytime.

He said the convention would also seek to give strong encouragement to women to get actively involved in local politics, and to make their contribution to the development of a united Antigua and Barbuda.

"They must play an equal part in this nation—they must help us to move forward," he added.

UNDP Chairman, Eustace Daniel, charged that with corruption abounding under the ALP, the society was becoming increasingly void of social and political consciousness, and a commitment to honesty, integrity and democracy.

"These are dangerous tendencies, which spell disaster for our country in the long run," Daniel said.

"We must unite to arrest this trend, and to work towards ushering in a new society in which insatiable greed, selfishness, immorality, corruption and such things will find no place of comfort," he added.

The convention was also addressed by a representative of the Antigua and Barbudan Society of New York, George Wade.

He encouraged the UNDP members to stand up for what they believed was necessary "to effect a change in Government in Antigua and Barbuda."

SEVERAL AREAS DECLARED ECONOMIC DISASTER ZONES

PY231823 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 May 87 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)--The government yesterday declared in state of emergency or economic disaster several areas of the Buenos Aires, Chubut, Corrientes, Formosa, La Pampa, and Mendoza Provinces affected by floods, fires, or droughts from November 1986 to this date.

Several localities west of the Parana River were declared in a state of alert yesterday due to the rapid rise in the waters during the past 48 hours.

The situation has become critical in Resistencia, Posadas, Sante Fe and Rosario, where some 800 people have had to be evacuated. In some areas the level of the river has risen four times over what is considered normal for this time of the year.

Experts fear that floods will continue to increase during the weekend and cause serious inconveniences in the Chaco port of Barranqueras and in Rosaric, where the evacuation danger zones was yesterday surpassed by 10 centimetres.

Latest reports from Misiones are to the effect that the situation is also critical at the point where the Iguazu and Parana Rivers meet. The water level there rose to 33.75 metres and is still rising. This mark is 3 metres above the 30.70 metres peak registered during the catastrophic floods in 1966.

Four hundred residents were evacuated from the suburbs of Posadas. Shanty towns near Posadas, Reconquista, and Rosario are under several centimetres of flood waters.

The districts most threatened by flooding are Alto Verde, La Guazrida, Colastine, and Rincon. Local authorities are worried at the possible overflowing of the Setubal Lagoon, which would cut off communications between Sante Fe and Parana.

/12232

CSO: 3300/13

ARGENTINA

HOLDING COMPANY HEAD DISAGREES WITH SOURROUILLE

PY251830 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 May 87 p 3

[Text] (NA-DYN)--Enrique Olivera, chief of the Holding Company for State Enterprises, yesterday admitted that he met President Raul Alfonsin late last week in order to explain his differences of opinion with Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille.

The differences stem from Olivera's plans to grant more freedom of action to both his department and state companies as a whole in order to meet his aims of turning "dreadful services which cost the country enormous sums" into "efficient and profitable companies." State companies had to be purged of bureaucracy, he said.

Productivity committees and a "major public debate" on three key state-run companies--YPF State Oil Board, Argentine Railways (Ferrocarriles Argentinos) and ENTEL state telephone company--are other ideas of Olivera's staff, which is also planning to halve the railway deficit and have ELMA state merchant shipping line submit its balance sheet to the stock exchange by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, holding company sources revealed that Aerolineas Argentinas Airlines lost more than 1 billion (thousand million) dollars in 1985 and 126 million last year. Poor management and equipment as well as low productivity were blamed.

The report said maintenance levels were good but that the carrier lacked capital since its debts exceeded its assets by 30 percent, mostly because devaluations in 1981 and 1982 had hit its foreign debt coverage hard. Aerolineas owes 812 million dollars abroad.

/12232

CSO: 3300/13

BRIEFS

PRC FLOOD TECHNOLOGY OFFER--La Plata, 19 May (TELAM)--The Buenos Aires province government has received an offer from a PRC enterprise to jointly engage in seeking solutions to the serious problems caused by the floods in Buenos Aires Province. Officials of the Chek [name as received] Enterprise, along with officials of the PRC embassy, talked with Governor Alejandro Armendariz, proposing the supply of technological support to drain huge quantities of water from a closed basin in northwestern Buenos Aires. The visitors reported that first they had to conduct a feasibility study to thoroughly review the problem, adding that they had done similar work in Mexico and Columbia. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0343 GMT 20 May 87 PY] /12232

EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Buenos Aires, 21 May (TELAM)--President Raul Alfonsin today received the credentials of the newly appointed Egyptian ambassador to Argentina, Assan Abdel-Aal [name as received]. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0156 GMT 22 May 87 PY] /12232

SOVIET COOPERATION EXPECTED--Buenos Aires, 19 May (EFE)--According to the agreements signed by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin during his last visit to the USSR in 1986, a group of Soviet enterprises will participate in the construction of four hydroelectric turbines for the "Piedra de Aguila" Dam. In addition to the four turbines, the project also involves the construction of generators and electric transformers which are to be installed in the hydroelectrical complex. The Soviet enterprise "Energomasheksport" will handle 40 percent of the project, while an Argentine consortium will handle the rest. Spokesmen for the Argentine enterprises estimate that the first turbine will start operating in late 1990 while the other three will start operating in 1992. The "Piedra de Aguila" Dam will be built in Neuquen Province, some 1,300 km southwest of Buenos Aires. [Text] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 2158 GMT 20 May 87 PY] /12232

AMBASSADORS APPOINTED--Buenos Aires, 20 May (TELAM)--The national government has appointed Mario Corcuera Ibanez as Argentine ambassador to Guinea-Bissau and Alberto Ham as Argentine ambassador to Cyprus. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2350 GMT 20 May 87 PY] /12232

CSO: 3348/319

MADRID REPORTS SPANISH ROYAL COUPLE'S VISIT

LD221049 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 21 May 87

[Text] The king and queen of Spain are spending their first day in Bolivia, a country which has been afflicted by coups and drug trafficking. Here is a report from our special correspondent Gabriel Sanchez:

[Sanchez] Concerning the support of the Spanish Government for the efforts being made by Bolivia to consolidate democracy and overcome the distressing economic situation which this Andean country is now experiencing, Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez has praised the plans of the Paz Estenssoro government aimed at rescheduling the external debts, restructuring the Bolivian mining industry and eradicating the trafficking the cocaine. This afternoon the foreign ministers of the two countries had a meeting here in La Paz to discuss bilateral relations between Bolivia and Spain. According to Fernandez Ordonez, Bolivia is a priority in the program for international cooperation.

[Begin recording] I stressed to Foreign Minister Bedegral that the Spanish government has identified Bolivia as a priority country in our international cooperation program and in the framework of the program for international cooperation with Latin America. As you know, I have personally explained the Bolivian case at several meetings of the Council of Ministers of the European Community when it has discussed (COMEXT) and the distribution of the EEC's aid funds for the countries of Latin America. [end recording]

In June there will be a meeting in La Paz of scientific and technical commissions from the two countries which will discuss bilateral cooperation. Projected agreements in judicial matters and on investment in Bolivia were discussed at this first meeting between the two delegations. The Spanish foreign minister declined to comment on the effect on the royal visit of this morning's demonstration by 200 miners near the government palace while the king and queen were receiving the diplomatic corps. Fernandez Ordonez said that it is an internal Bolivian problem and that Spain has recently experienced the problem of restructuring. Don Juan Carlos and Dona Sofia are now paying a visit to the La Paz City Hall where they will be declared guests of honor.

/12232

CSO: 3348/20

MINERS ANNOUNCE ROADBLOCKS WHILE TALKS CONTINUE

PY262130 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] As has already been announced, beginning at 0000 today, peasants have blocked roads in Cochabamba and in the Yungas in La Paz. The leaders of the federations in those districts said that the objective of the measure is to demand government compliance with the sector's demands. Cochabamba has thus been isolated, because the highways to La Paz, Santa Cruz, Oruro, as well as the internal highways, have been blocked.

The roadblock of the La Paz zone was set up in the (Chusquipata) area. We have the remarks by La Paz peasant leader (Franz Kifke).

[Begin (Kifke) recording] We are very sure that the government thinks that we will agree to begin a dialogue with this dilatory technique. They give us only 30 or 60 minutes. We will not permit this. We want to be heard. We [words indistinct] coca leaves. Consequently, the La Paz roads will be blocked. This is what we can tell the La Paz people. [end recording]

[Cochabamba settlers' leader Ovando gave details of the situation in that department.

[Begin Ovando recording, in progress] ...of Radio Panamericana listeners. To say that the conditions are ripe... [changes sentence pattern] because we have not yet received a positive answer from the government in connection with coca growers' demands. This is the reason for the blocking of roads linking Santa Cruz, Oruro, La Paz, and, obviously, [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The Executive Committee of the Bolivian Single Confederation of Peasant Workers is still holding a meeting. Confederation leaders have criticized Informations Minister Hernan Antelo, charging that he intends to distort the nature of the conflict. Confederation leader Eusebio Encina has announced that a new meeting will be held with governemtn officials in search for solutions, in order to prevent the peasants from blocking roads all over the country.

[Begin Encina recording] We are waiting. We will again meet the ministers this afternoon. We will see what we can do. However, A reiterate that road blocks in rural areas [words indistinct]. [end recording]

For his part, Interior Under Secretary Eduardo Perez Beltran told Panamericana that the government wants to engage in a dialogue to solve the problems and that it is surprised at the attitude of some sectors which have adopted hasty coercive measures. He thus alluded to the roadblocks, hunger strikes, and demonstrations by peasants and workers.

Perez Beltran deplored the attempt to hinder the negotiations just a few hours before the scheduled meetings with the government. He added that the police were ordered to preserve order and to act in keeping with the law, stressing that some sectors want to promote disorder and anarchy through demagogic attitudes, which harm both government and workers. Perez Beltran appealed to the people's understanding in order to preserve the national interest and join efforts to overcome backwardness and underdevelopment.

Asked about the drastic police action during the visit by the Spanish king and Queen, Perez Beltran emphasized that it was necessary to provide all guarantees to the illustrious visitors.

In the meantime, Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran has said that there are no peasant roadblocks, adding that the talks with the peasants will continue this afternoon in search for a solution. There are, however, discrepancies about the eradication of coca plantations, the minister said. This is what he told Panamericana:

[Begin Duran recording] I have not received any information on any roadblock. The only thing is that a state of emergency has been declared. During a long meeting with settler and peasant confederation leaders yesterday, we analyzed the 3-year plan and the draft law on the control of drugs. We gave them a comprehensive explanation. They were doing the things that they were doing because they lacked accurate information on the program and on the country's legislation. Former Deputy Barrenechea spoke on behalf of the peasants. We explained to him the 3-year plan and the law on the control of drugs. I believe they understood it.

What I want to point out is that the dialogue ends whenever mobilizations or roadblocks begin. [end recording]

The minister added that the 3-year plan against drug trafficking must be implemented one way or the other, explaining that the government has made a great effort to manage with the financial resources that have been requested. He said there are very few details left to sign annexes 1 and 2 with the United States.

Duran said that the situation of the miners will soon be resolved and that it is expected that an accord will be signed this afternoon or tomorrow. This will put an end to the mobilizations.

/12232

CSO: 3348/20

BRIEFS

MINERS STAGE HUNGER STRIKE--La Paz, 22 May (AFP)--Over 200 people have joined the hunger strike in Oruro and Potosi, in western Bolivia, started by leaders of the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB), headed by Juan Lechin Oquendo, to call the attention of the government to the miner's claims. Victor Lopez, a leader of the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers has said that workers will adopt more radical measures because of the government's lack of action in response to their claims for better salaries, the suspension of orders dismissing workers, and the reactivation of the state-owned Mining Corporation of Bolivia. Lopez noted that the police acted with excessive violence during the demonstration staged by men and women from La Paz mining districts, wounding various workers and arresting six of them. During the visit that Spanish King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia paid to President Victor Paz Estenssoro at Government Palace, the police and mine workers clashed near the main square, creating a difficult situation because of the riot and confrontation that ensued. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1825 GMT 22 May 87 PY] /12232

PRESIDENT TO VISIT SPAIN--La Paz, 25 May (AFP)--Information Minister Hernan Antelo said today that President Victor Paz Estenssoro will visit Spain in the near future in response to an invitation extended to him by the Spanish king and queen, who recently visited Bolivia. The minister said that the visit of the Spanish king and queen was very positive, not only because of the cooperation agreements that were signed, but because of the fact that the two nations are in total agreement on major issues like the need to defend the democratic processes. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1352 GMT 25 May 87 PY] /12232

WORKERS RALLY HELD--Labor leaders of the Departmental Bolivian Labor Confederation have confirmed that workers held a march for life and mobilization, at 1430 this afternoon, in an effort to force the government to meet the mineworkers' demands and to find a solution to the lengthy conflict. Workers from two districts have been on strike for 45 days. The rally will be held at National Unity Park, and the workers will then march through the main streets of this capital, to gather on Civic Avenue, where several speakers will address the crowd. It is believed that after this march, secretaries general and delegates of the different unions will join the general strike that members of the Executive Committee of the Departmental Labor Confederation have been holding since last Friday. Leaders of the high school students federation and factory workers also joined this strike during the past few hours. [Relay from Oruro by Jorge Barrientos Zepata] [Text] [La Paz La Red Panamerica in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 May 87 PY] /12232

ILLEGAL PRESENCE OF FOREIGNERS--La Paz, 16 May (AFP)--Under Secretary for Immigration Walter Gumucio today stated that 25,800 foreigners legally established live in Bolivia according to the last census on the population migrated from abroad and the periodic control carried out by the Interior Minister. Gumucio stated that the government is strictly checking foreigners without documents or illegally established in the country in order to prevent violations of the law, and that illegally established foreigners they are expelled from the country. The under secretary said that Bolivia wants to normalize control over all foreigners in the country to prevent them from engaging in illegal activities such as drug trafficking as they have been doing for the past few days. Gumucio concluded by stating that the immigration office has established a series of new requirements for the entry into Bolivia of Colombian citizens in view of the repeated cases of drug trafficking with that country. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1305 GMT 26 May 87 PY] /12232

CSO: 3348/20

SARNEY ORDERS INVESTIGATION ON PUBLIC BIDDING

PY192125 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 May 87 p A-1

[Text] President Jose Sarney yesterday ordered the Federal Police to open an investigation into irregularities which have been reported following the first tender bidding for the building of the North-South railroad which will connect Maranhao to Brasilia. Yesterday, Sarney also asked Republic's Adviser General Saulo Ramos to draw up the draft of a bill classifying frauds in public tender biddings as a crime that will be punished with imprisonment sentences. On 13 May, the government cancelled the bidding for the building of this railroad after FOLHA DE SAO PAULO journalist Janio de Freitas revealed that the results of the bidding were known before the envelopes with the bidders' proposals had been opened.

After the meeting with Sarney, Carlos Chiarelli, Liberal Front Party (PFL) leader at the Senate, said that the president intends to punish the culprits. "No one will be given special favors," Sarney told Chiarelli. Transportation Minister Jose Reinaldo Tavares has said that there had been "arrangements" between the construction companies which were bidding to build the 18 stretches of the railroad. Tavares said that by having made these "arrangements," these companies cannot participate in the new bidding, which the government has scheduled for next month.

In addition to the police investigation ordered by the president, the transportation minister has created an administrative committee to check on "possible irregularities," which may have been performed during the bidding. This committee will be presided by Colonel Stanley Fortes Baptista, chairman of the Brazilian Enterprise for Transportation Planning [Empresa Brasileira de Planejamento de Transportes], which is the main shareholder of Valec (the state-owned company in charge of building the railroad). The committee will have five other members, all of them government officials. Tavares will testify before the Senate on 25 May.

/12232

CSO: 3342/122

BRAZIL

COVAS SEES DIRECT ELECTIONS IN 1988 AS REASONABLE

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 4 May 87 p 3

[Text of interview with Mario Covas, leader of the PMDB in the Constituent Assembly, by Theresina Lopes, in Sao Paulo, date not given]

[Text] Sao Paulo--Senator Mario Covas, leader of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] in the Constituent Assembly, is certain that the party is becoming aware of its duty to arrive at a position regarding the length of President Sarney's mandate and to arrive at it quickly, and he has proposed broad consultation with the party rank and file throughout the country. He is in favor of consulting with all the party directorates, calling a convention and talking it over with the president himself, whom he called a "party comrade." The senator thinks the position which he has been advocating for some time is taking more and more definite shape in the PMDB; that this president should serve a 4-year term.

The senator thinks that to turn President Sarney's mandate into an "unknown" would be ruinous, even for the president himself, so he feels it is reasonable to hold direct elections in November 1988, seeing this as a commitment of the New Republic. A 2-year stopgap mandate for President Sarney, which is advocated by Governor Orestes Quercia, would be "short and fleeting." Mario Covas does not think that Governor Miguel Arraes' break with President Sarney is a new crisis within the PMDB; he thinks the problem is "surmountable."

He also feels an alliance is unlikely between Governor Orestes Quercia and Mayor Janio Quadros to pick a single candidate for mayor of Sao Paulo.

"Quercia is a party man and Janio is a man who breaks up parties," he said.

The senator was recently surprised to see a sticker with the slogan "Covas, whenever," made by his friends in Santos. He does not hide the fact that he would like to be president of the republic, but he says he is not prepared to face the task at this time.

"I assure you that my political goal--and I can't hide this--is to seek my party's nomination for governor of Sao Paulo State."

[Question] Tomorrow, the "progressive" wing of the PMDB will meet in Brasilia and should release a document supporting immediate direct elections. What is your position on this?

[Answer] It depends on what you mean by immediate direct elections. In my opinion, we should carry out the historic commitment to write a new constitution this year and hold elections for the president of the republic next year. To hold elections while the Constituent Assembly is in session would be to neglect one of the two things. If the elections were held later, the campaign should last for no less than 1 year, so I think it is logical that the election should be held in November 1988.

[Question] Personally, do you think President Sarney would support a campaign for direct presidential elections in 1988?

[Answer] There is absolutely no doubt that this is a commitment of the New Republic. Tancredo [Neves] and Sarney himself agreed, even before the last election, that this term should last 4 years. It's just that the president has never expressed himself on this issue. I must confess that, if I were president, I would like to know the exact length of my term.

[Question] Is Governor Manuel Arraes' break with President Sarney the beginning of a new split within the PMDB?

[Answer] Governor Arraes did not break with the federal government. If I understand correctly, he used the word "distancing." There is no boss of the PMDB and so, here and there, you have divergent voices; actually, what they are seeking is to hold as closely as possible to their commitments.

[Question] Regarding this rebellion of the northeastern governors, are you closer to the PMDB represented by these governors or to other, more cautious, members?

[Answer] I am close to the PMDB. I have never had a label within the party. No one has ever categorized or labeled me. I am a PMDB member, period. Clearly, the incident of the appointment of the finance minister was a misunderstanding that left us dissatisfied with the result. I think Arraes has the right and the duty to protest. But the problem is surmountable."

[Question] Do you think it is important for the Democratic Alliance to take a joint position with regard to the presidential mandate, or can the PMDB alone decide how long it should last?

[Answer] As a party, the PMDB has an obligation to take a position. Since the Constituent Assembly should be meeting until the end of the year and since, juridically, the question will not be settled until the assembly has completed its labors, this creates a certain uneasiness and gives rise to political opinions and positions which vary as the circumstances change. It seems to me that the PMDB is becoming aware that it must take a position and this idea is taking more and more definite shape within the party.

[Question] But today there are people who are in more of a hurry than you are to define the length of the president's mandate.

[Answer] It happens that we have had a significant political situation which has clearly created unhappiness and scars and has left its marks. If the economic crisis worsens, there is talk of a shorter mandate; if the crisis eases they talk about a longer mandate. We cannot write a clause into the constitution that says: "The president of the republic shall serve for 5 years, unless inflation goes above 15 percent." The rule cannot be conditional.

[Question] Would you support Governor Orestes Quercia's proposal to hold presidential elections next year for a stopgap 2-year mandate?

[Answer] No, I think a 2-year presidential term is inadvisable. A 2-year mandate is so fleeting and short that it would make it impossible to accomplish anything lasting. Because of certain demonstrations, Quercia thought up a formula to try to reconcile his position in favor of a 6-year mandate with an intermediate position.

[Question] What would be the significance of a campaign for immediate direct elections, with President Sarney's support, which is being advocated by some PMDB leaders?

[Answer] Sarney's is the first government of the New Republic and, therefore, the PMDB is saying that its position is not against President Sarney. On the contrary, it is a position shared by the president. Obviously, whether the decision is juridical or political, he will go along with it.

[Question] Do you think the Democratic Alliance can hold together until the end of this transition period?

[Answer] It depends on the goals that are outlined for it. If the fact that it supports the government is all that holds it together, in other words, if the power is the only point of reference, it has little meaning.

[Question] What is a feasible deadline for the PMDB to decide on the issue of President Sarney's mandate?

[Answer] The initiative should come from the national leadership. It is not something to be handled by the party bench.

[Question] Do you think the president of the party is soft on this issue?

[Answer] No, but if he were, he could not be for very long. There are already two proposals: one by Senator Jose Fogaca, to call a convention; and the other by Senator Affonso Camargo, supported--albeit only orally--by Minister Dante de Oliveira, both of whom recommend a kind of plebiscite of the whole party. I would like to see both of these happen: that all the directorates in Brazil be heard from and that a convention should then be called to decide how long the mandate should be. Obviously, President Sarney should also be consulted; he is a party comrade.

[Question] How did you react to the sticker "Covas, whenever," made by your friends?

[Answer] I saw it as an expression of friendship. If you ask me if I would like to be president of the republic, my answer is yes. But if you ask me if I am prepared to face this task, my answer would be no.

[Question] Don't you think this is a legitimate aspiration?

[Answer] I think I need to go through a stage, as governor of Sao Paulo, for example. So my political plan is to seek the PMDB nomination for governor.

[Question] And if the party decided to nominate you for president of the republic?

[Answer] I would say the same thing.

6362

CS0: 3342/119

BRAZIL

CABINET REFORM, DIRECT ELECTIONS DEBATE COULD SPLIT PMDB

Rio de Janeiro MANCHETE in Portuguese 16 May 87 pp 18B-18C

[Article by Murilo Melo Filho]

[Text] The expected has happened; the PMDB is threatening to split down the middle.

After 20 years in the opposition, when it was a decisive factor in the struggle to overthrow the arbitrary regime, the PMDB saw itself swing into power overnight, in 22 states, in which it elected the governors and most of the senators and federal and state deputies.

The first signs of the rift appeared when the party bench met, even before the Constituent Assembly was seated; the "shiites" demanded that the Congress serve exclusively as a constituent assembly, with the Chamber and Senate virtually going into recess.

Then came the election of Senator Mario Covas as party leader in the Constituent, over candidate Luiz Henrique, who was openly supported by Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes. This was the beginning of a reaction against the excessive concentration of powers in the hands of the PMDB president, who was also president of the Chamber and of the Constituent Assembly.

A single drop of water could make the cup overflow; it happened in Sao Paulo, when Governor Orestes Quercia invited his colleagues Moreira Franco, Newton Cardoso and Marcelo Miranda to take a strong stand against Dilson Funaro as finance minister and in favor of complete changes in the economic-financial direction of the country. They argued that the minister was representative of the status quo ante 15 November, at which time the people had voted precisely to obtain those changes.

Then it was Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes' turn to react vigorously against this demand by the governors of Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais and Mato Grosso do Sul. Calling the bench together, he succeeded in having it pledge unconditional loyalty to Minister Dilson Funaro and to the government's economic-financial policy, including the moratorium on the interest payments on the foreign debt.

By that time, however, the position of the finance minister was simply untenable and he himself admitted it when he sent a letter of irrevocable resignation to the president of the republic.

The replacement process was utterly traumatic. President Jose Sarney sounded out Governor Tasso Jereissati for the post and the governor even went to Brasilia, but the two ran up against the outright veto of Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes and Governor Orestes Quercia, who were united in this instance against the choice of a northeastern governor to succeed Funaro.

There were tense hours in Brasilia, until Guimaraes went to President Sarney with a list of four names: ministers Raphael de Almeida Magalhaes, Celso Furtado, Jose Serra and Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira.

The first two were out because President Sarney preferred to keep them in their present posts at Social Security and the Ministry of Culture. Deputy Jose Serra faced a direct veto by Governor Orestes Quercia. Economist Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira was finally named because he would create the fewest rough spots for the government.

Precisely to demonstrate clearly that the new minister was not his own choice, but that of the PMDB, President Sarney had deputies Ulysses Guimaraes, Luiz Henrique and Carlos Sant'Anna and senators Mario Covas and Fernando Henrique Cardoso announce the appointment from his own office.

There was an enormous reaction from the northeastern PMDB governors, who did not concur with the veto of their colleague Tereissati. The group was led by Governor Miguel Arraes, with the full support of governors Alberto Silva, Tarcisio Burity, Collor de Mello, Geraldo Melo and Waldir Pires.

Meanwhile, President Sarney also had to name a replacement for Minister Marco Maciel. The PMDB suggested Deputy Prisco Viana, after the president had exhausted efforts to persuade Senator Jose Richa to agree to be the new chief of the Civilian Household.

The moment had arrived for President Sarney to turn the tables on the PMDB; he moved Costa Couto from the Ministry of the Interior to head the Civilian Household and, as his replacement at the Interior Ministry, the president selected a name indicated by the PFL [Liberal Front Party]: Deputy Joaquim Francisco Cavalcanti, with the backing of ministers Marco Maciel, Aureliano Chaves, Jorge Bornhausen, Antonio Carlos Magalhaes and former Governor Roberto Magalhaes.

At that point, the reaction of the northeastern PMDB governors intensified, with Miguel Arraes again at the forefront of the rebellion. They felt that Brasilia had chosen in favor of the PFL, which had been defeated in the region, against the PMDB, which had been widely victorious. Moreover, they were deeply troubled by the new directives announced by Finance Minister Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, providing for a growth rate of only 3 percent for the Brazilian economy this year. They thought this would amount to a recession, which would be terrible for the Northeast.

This weekend, Senator Jose Richa went to Salvador and Recife in an attempt to prevent the northeastern governors from breaking with Planalto Palace. After talking with governors Waldir Pires and Miguel Arraes, he returned to Brasilia with little reason for optimism.

On Monday, in Natal, the northeastern PMDB governors met to take a stand on three matters: the veto of Governor Jereissati; the appointment of Deputy Joaquim Cavalcanti as interior minister; and the statements by newly appointed Minister Bresser Pereira in favor of a cooling of the economy.

Almost simultaneously, a wave was growing in the Constituent Assembly in favor of direct elections in 1988. Led by Senator Affonso Camargo and Deputy Miro Teixeira, the movement was receiving important support from such as Senator Mario Covas, but it also was faced with the stubborn opposition of Governor Orestes Quercia, for one, who felt the country could not tolerate facing an election campaign next year.

Planalto Palace is mobilizing against direct elections next year. Its legal advisors admit that in the event the presidential mandate, which the Constitution sets at 6 years, is reduced to 4 years, the matter could be taken to the Federal Supreme Court.

Regarding the need to legitimize President Sarney's mandate at the polls, the presidential advisors say that when the Cruzado Plan was popular, no one thought about raising the issue of legitimacy, but as soon as Sarney was facing a loss of popularity, the doubts arose about whether his mandate was legitimate or not.

As if all these problems were not enough, Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the PMDB, had an audience with President Sarney to ask if the cabinet reform would proceed or if it had been completed with the changes in the Finance, Interior and Planning ministries and the Civilian Household.

The pressures continue and have not abated. Governor Orestes Quercia claims the Ministry of Industry and Trade for Deputy Ralph Biasi; Governor Newton Cardoso wants a powerful ministry (Mines and Energy, Social Security or Urban Development), because he does not feel he got his fair share with the appointment of Costa Couto (Minas Gerais) as minister-chief of the civilian household.

President Sarney is well aware of the problems he will face with the appointment of new ministers. He has already had enough vexation, trauma and division in the PMDB with the appointments of ministers Bresser, Pereira, Joaquim Cavalcanti and Ronaldo Costa Couto.

To dismiss and appoint more ministers will simply add to his afflictions.

6362
CSO: 3342/119

FINANCE MINISTRY PREPARES MACROECONOMIC PLAN

PY261318 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 May 87 p 31

[Text] Brasilia--The macroeconomic plan, which is being put together by the Finance Ministry, will establish monthly and quarterly targets aiming at a 4-5 percent economic growth for this year. The traditional IMF guidelines will be adopted so as to bring under control the public deficit, and the expansion of both the monetary base and credit levels.

At least four basic points have already been defined: a substantial cut in subsidies--wheat subsidy in particular--an increase in the current internal savings rate from 16 to 20 percent of the GDP, the maintenance of real interest rates, and the implementation of a realistic foreign-exchange policy. The foreign-exchange policy poses one of the main difficulties in the application of forceful measures, such as a price freeze, because the government still does not have a formula with which to freeze the foreign-exchange rate. Without this a price freeze would considerably distort the economy.

The government technical team that is preparing the macroeconomic plan faces problems in projecting this year's inflation rate. The last official estimate, which is still valid despite recent price increases, is 200 percent. The experts are now trying to work around the difficulties and to make a reliable prediction by setting operational targets for the program, by disregarding nominal inflation increases, and by relating those targets to the performance of the GDP. In this way, the rise in inflation will not alter the established operational targets.

Should a more austere prospect prevail, the prediction of 1.7 percent GDP-related expansion of the public deficit will be maintained. The experts insist that this prediction will hold if the federal government is determined to control the expenditures of the states and municipalities, the greatest source of pressure on the public deficit encountered so far this year.

Finance Minister Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira has repeatedly noted that the country's emergency problem lies in the external area. The sources added that first, a balance should be re-established for external accounts, and then attention should be paid to inflation, the other serious and delicate problem.

As part of this strategy, the performance of the Brazilian trade balance has become vitally important. The most optimistic predictions for next month expect

a \$700 million surplus, which could become to \$1.0 billion in July. With this rosy prospect, the government should not change its prediction of \$8.0-billion surplus for this year, at least in the official projections of the macro-economic program.

Following these guidelines, which include efforts to control internal demand yet without cooling or causing a recession of the economy, Brazilian officials hope to impress favorable the IMF, the Paris Club, and the private creditor banks. A delicate balance between acceptability by our creditors and a stance of independence before public opinion is necessary.

Within his established timetable, Minister Bresser Pereira intends to fight inflation as soon as he manages to put out the fire on the external front. The finance minister might still adopt a program of economic stabilization based on a general de-indexation of the economy. Orthodox instruments, the minister told the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] politicians, are inadequate to eliminate or substantially reduce inflation.

The heterodox [price freeze] strategy will not be applied before relative prices are realigned and internal supply is normalized. More important is to create political conditions of internal credibility for the Sarney Government, so that it can regain its ability to convince and motivate the people, this being a vital element to the success of the program.

/12232

CSO: 3342/122

BRIEFS

ANTARCTIC RESEARCH SHIP RETURNS--Without the intense advertising that usually marks the return of the "Barao de Teffe," which is the Brazilian ship that has conducted the most research in the Antarctic, the "Professor W. Besnard," an oceanographic research ship of Sao Paulo University, has returned to its base in the Port of Santos. In the past few years, this ship has been used for Missions in the Antarctic polar area. Even though it has satisfactorily fulfilled its mission, it is obvious that the ship needs more equipment and, above all, more support to improve the results of its work. [Excerpts] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 May 87 p 29 PY] /12232

BOMB EXPLODES IN BUS STATION--Porto Alegre, Brazil, 25 May (AFP)--A police spokesman has reported that four persons were wounded, one seriously, when a bomb exploded last night at Porto Alegre's Inter-city bus station. The explosion of the medium-strength bomb started a fire, which was put out by the bus station's fire department personnel, according to the spokesman, who added that the perpetrator or perpetrators have not yet been identified. The explosion destroyed several shops and caused some damage to the bus station itself. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1634 GMT 25 May 87 PY] /12232

CSO: 3342/122

CARDINAL SEEN BY PCCH AS TRANSITION PRESIDENT

PY201939 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1915 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 May (NA)--PCCH [Communist Party of Chile] leader Luis Guastavino today stated in Buenos Aires that the PCCH "views favorably" a proposal for Cardinal Raul Silva Henriquez, who was Santiago's archbishop until 1983, to act as Chilean president during a transition period.

Referring to a proposal made in Santiago by the Republican Party, a democratic right party, Guastavino said that the cardinal "is a [word indistinct] and who has always taken a strong stand toward human rights. The Chilean opposition will not oppose him."

Guastavino, a member of the PCCH Central Committee who has been banned from Chile, also stated that the prelates candidacy "represents a moral problem for the Armed Forces" in Chile.

Despite the emphatic PCCH support for Silva Henriquez's possible [presidential] candidacy, Guastavino noted the problems with the feasibility of the proposal because "one must take Pinochet into account."

Guastavino said that it is virtually impossible that the current Chilean president will accept an amendment of the 1980 constitution to permit that the 1989 plebiscite is transformed into a direct presidential election between two or more candidates.

According to the current constitution, the Armed Forces must propose a candidate for the 1989-1997 presidential term, a candidate that will be subjected to a plebiscite. Should the candidate be rejected, then direct presidential elections would be held in 1990.

Guastavino said that Pinochet "has already launched an all-out effort to become the candidate for the plebiscite and that he has not hesitated to take populist measures."

The PCCH leader pointed out that "only broad popular mobilizations, including the proposal of Silva Henriquez's nomination, could force the dictatorship to change the rules of the game and accept a constitutional amendment."

/8309

CSO: 3348/324

CAMPUSANO INTERVIEWED IN SIERRA GORDA

PY202039 Santiago LA SEGUNDA in Spanish 14 May 87 p 28

[By special correspondent Rodolfo Sesnic]

[Text] Sierra Gorda--Julieta Campusano is the 14th person banished to this mining town, located 70 km from Calama on the road linking Calama with Antofagasta, and the 14th dweller in the parish priest's house (the parish priest comes from Calama once a week).

Thirteen other banished people have preceded her over the past few years. Thus, her presence is not the "news of the year" nor has it shocked the Sierra Gorda inhabitants.

With one foot resting on her bed and the other foot on the ground, Campusano received and talked with LA SEGUNDA. She spoke about everything or nearly everything: the PCCH [Communist Party of Chile] reorganization, the possibility that [PCCH Secretary General] Luis Corvalan is now in Chile, the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR], the attempt on Pinochet's life, and--quote--"the politicians who have lost their guts [aconcharon los meaos]." She also spoke about how, where, when, and why she cut off her chignon.

[Question] Did you actually live secluded for 2 months in Santiago?

[Campusano] It is clear to us that the government's security services are based on informers, and if this were so we would have been easily recognized by some one.

[Question] Why did you decide to return now?

[Campusano] The PCCH decided 4 years ago that all communists should return. However, returning is a personal problem, and depends on one's conscience.

[Question] Why have Luis Corvalan or other PCCH Central Committee members not returned?

[Campusano] That is something that history will determine.

[Question] Does this mean that it is possible that Corvalan is now in Chile?

[Campusano] I cannot tell you about this. I can state, however, that most of the members of the Central Committee and the Political [as printed] are here. There is only one PCCH. The time when most members were abroad has passed.

[Question] Are these the same members that you had in 1973?

[Campusano] There are new members. The average age of the Central Committee members is 36 to 38 years.

[Question] Protests are declining and many people state that this method has been exhausted....

[Campusano] This is because some politicians fear the people. The mineworkers here have a way of describing this: because they have lost their guts [se le aconcharon los meaos].

[Question] [Former communist deputy] Maria Maluenda has said that people should register at the electoral registries.

[Campusano] I share the PCCH position. There are no disagreements within the PCCH. These things have occurred many times before. Now they [not further specified] want to give it a different value.

[Question] Do you believe that the FPMR could really implement guerrilla warfare as in El Salvador, for example?

[Campusano] Go and ask the FPMR.

[Question] Lira Massi described you as a woman wearing a suit and a chignon. What happened to the chignon?

[Campusano] I cut it off recently in Argentina, shortly before entering Chile. I did this to help prevent the people from recognizing me.

/8309

CSO: 3348/324

MILITARY COURT SENTENCES STUDENT TO DEATH

PY211650 Paris AFP in Spanish 0207 GMT 21 May 87

[Excerpt] San Felipe, Chile, 20 May (AFP)--Official sources today reported that a 24-year-old student has been sentenced to death by a Military Court in San Felipe, 100 km north of Santiago, after being convicted of being part of a subversive squad that killed a policeman in 1983.

The sentence was announced 1 day after relatives of political prisoners sent a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar asking him to mediate on behalf of 14 people who are condemned to death under the charges of [words indistinct] and subversive activities against the government of General Augusto Pinochet.

All of those sentenced have been tried by military courts. Their final status, however, will be decided by the Supreme Court of Justice.

/8309

CSO: 3348/326

CHILE

CARABINEROS ARREST 10 DURING DEMONSTRATION

PY230350 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 May 87

[Excerpt] About 10 people were arrested during a march toward the Chile Stadium to pay homage to the people who were held under arrest at this stadium after 11 September 1973.

This was disclosed to Primera Plana [name of program] by (Ivan Gutierrez), secretary general of the youth department of the Coordinating Board for Metropolitan Slumdweller.

[Begin Gutierrez recording] Members of the Carabinero forces appeared at the stadium, and we explained that this was just a meeting to say a prayer, and that we were going to leave afterward. They stayed around watching us and seized a few banners that referred to this demonstration. Later, as we were leaving along La Alameda, the Carabineros arrested about 10 people among whom are Soledad Ares of La Victoria neighborhood; Victoria Ramirez, member of the organization of relatives of political prisoners; Tamara Duran, secretary of CODEJU [National Commission for Children's Rights], and a youth who has not been identified yet. [end recording]

/8309

CSO: 3348/326

CHILE

SITE OF LEFTIST EXECUTIONS REVEALED

PY261906 Paris AFP in Spanish 1745 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Ancud, 25 May (AFP)--Chilean Bishop Juan Luis Ysern today released a map of the place where the bodies of 26 leftists lie in the northern city of Calama. The leftists were murdered in 1973 by military troops after the coup that ousted the socialist government of Salvador Allende.

According to the document disclosed by the bishop to all Chilean citizens, as a contribution to a true national reconciliation based on truth and justice, he has revealed that the bodies lie in a small desert ravine, near Calama, 1,560 km north of Santiago.

Bishop Isern, [as printed] who is now working in the southern city of Ancud, was apostolic administrator of the Calama diocese in 1973, when the executions took place. Among the victims was a 16-year-old boy, workers, union leaders, and a journalist.

The clergyman said that he received the map anonymously between 1983 and 1984 and that he had sought legal advice on what to do with it.

The bishop said that he will seek a meeting with retired Army General Sergio Arellano, who allegedly headed the troops who ordered the execution; retired Colonel Colonel Eugenio Rivera, Governor of Calama; and attorney Carmen Hertz, on behalf of the relatives of the executed leftists.

/8309

CSO: 3348/324

CHILE

BRIEFS

RETURN OF SOCIALISTS AUTHORIZED--Santiago, 20 May (AFP)--The Interior Ministry today reported that the military government of President Augusto Pinochet has authorized the return to the country of Socialists Aniceto Rodriguez and Raul Ampuero, who live in exile. The two former senators are included on a list of 104 Chileans in exile who have been allowed to return. Aniceto Rodriguez and Raul Ampuero went into exile after the military uprising headed by General Augusto Pinochet against socialist President Salvador Allende in 1973. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2038 GMT 20 May 87] /8309

CSO: 3348/324

BLAIZE, FORMER OFFICIALS COMMENT ON DIFFERENCES

Alexis Pre-Registration Interview

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 6 Apr 87 pp 6-7, 8

[Text]

This week *Grenadian Voice's* Ursula Andrews came FACE TO FACE with Legal Affairs Minister Francis Alexis in an interview that will be published in two parts. Here is the first part:-

Q. *Given your background, how important is it to you to be Grenada's Attorney General and at the same time being a member of the cabinet?*

A. In professional terms, as far as lawyers go, being an Attorney General is not without significance, and I take it in that light, and I am happy to be called to duty in this office. That's the way I see it.

Q. *Are you totally satisfied with your position as Attorney General at present?*

A. If one were ever totally satisfied with a job, he would be at the point of retirement, I suppose.

Q. *Are you looking forward to the challenge (being) Legal Affairs Minister - poses?*

A. I am looking forward to serving in this post, because it seems to me that to a great extent, much of our problems have to do with the maintenance of social peace, and the administration of justice. We have not been able to staff our magistrate courts with magistrates for some time. We had a number of vacancies and we have had a high turnover rate. In one case a Grenadian came home to be a magistrate and he did not last longer than three months. My challenge, as I see it, is to stabilise the administration of justice in the country, to so deal with the magistrate that they

will be prepared to stay on for some time. That is one aspect of the challenge.

The other aspect, is working alongside the Ministry of National Security to get on top of the crime situation in the country, in particular the dangerous drugs situation. For the last three weeks or so, I had the distinct impression that our people are now ready and willing to come forward to give information to the police; co-operate with the police and generally to make social peace attainable in the country. For the short stint I have been here, already I feel a sense of confidence on the part of the people. I feel a sense of satisfaction. It seems to me that already the police are getting more confidence within themselves, and the people are having more trust in the police. Although the police don't come within my ministry as such, there is an overlap clearly, so I am

looking forward to the challenges.

Q. *Can you tell me why, you cannot find magistrates to take up the positions which exists in Grenada?*

A. We are improving already. We have in the place right now three magistrates and I am advised that the fourth is about to be appointed. At all events that the Ministry of Legal Affairs is able to make a recommendation for a fourth person to be appointed. The difficulties have had to do with a number of things.

(1) The terms and conditions of work. Magistrates get a very low wage; they get about \$2,250, I think, a month and for any lawyer worth his salt, he could earn that in less than Sundays, to say nothing about a month. They did not get any proper travelling allowance; or housing, compared with

what the situation was in the sixties; they used to get a Government provided house.

(2) In terms of professional mobility. Over the years, if you are a magistrate, you were stuck there, so to speak. We have no precedent for a magistrate becoming a high court judge. We have already moved, since I've been in this ministry, to signal to the magistrates that there is opportunity for a broader mobility. We have a magistrate, who is up to become a high court judge, in an acting capacity, all right, but none-the-less it's a start.

One of the reasons we have had difficulties to take up the positions here may have also had to do with general attitude. If they did not feel wanted, then they were not encouraged to stay. I'm not talking necessarily about the attitude of the Government, I'm talking about general public's attitude. Then of course, there were the facilities.

One particular magistrate for example did not have an office of his own, he had to share facilities with the clerks, which is quite demeaning. I am very happy however to say, that cabinet is really co-operating in improving the lot of the magistrates, in terms of remuneration; in terms of office space; in terms of professional advancement -- cabinet has been co-operating very fully with me.

Q. *Talking about DANGEROUS DRUGS, if one of*

the big boys were caught, and they came to court, what kind of penalty in your opinion should be given to this person?

A. The same penalty as everybody else. What the law provides for, except that it may be appropriate, in the case of a person well placed in society, to apply a kind of exemplary punishment. Because, you would expect that well placed persons in society should set an example, and if they are going to disgrace their position in life, then in my humble opinion, if anything an example should be made out of them.

Q. *Are you proposing to review some, if not all of the laws in the state of Grenada?*

A. The Ministry have already secured authorisation from cabinet to seek out human, financial and other resources to embark upon two big projects.

(1) **Law Revision** - We have not revised our laws here since 1958. This means, if you wish to track down a given law, you went to the original piece of legislation, you could very well be out of date, not knowing that amendments have been passed. For example, it happened in parliament when last the House of Representatives were sitting, when a member was referring to the original

law, not knowing that the law had been amended, and as Attorney General I had to stand up and point out to him, that in fact, the law he was citing, had been amended. Not just when we do not have law revision in place that happens but when we do not identify amendments passed and integrate the amendments into the original law. That is what law revision is about.

So when you are referring, say to the criminal court, we will not just cite the criminal courts' law as it existed in 1958 but we read it, together with the amendments, and in the law revision exercise, what we would do, is discipline the amendments into the original lot, so when you stand up and cite the law, you know that you are citing the law as amended from time to time. That is what law revision is, so we are looking for results to embark upon that process.

Law revision in my view, goes hand in hand with law reform. This is a quite different operation from law revision, it's not just a matter of integrating amendments into the original law. Law reform now has to do with modernising the law. For example, you want a modern dangerous drugs law, and not just an old forsake law. For example, the modern trend in dangerous drugs law, not just in the Caribbean, but in the wider world, is to provide that if a man is convicted of violating the anti drugs law, you

can cease his resources, if you reasonable believe that he has been using his dangerous drugs money, to acquire property, a building, vehicles or what have you, you can then cease all those resources. We are giving very serious consideration to that.

We want for example a hire purchase law, to ensure that when a man had been paying down on a fridge and he defaulted on the last payment, that the merchant could not just come and then cease the fridge. We want modern child care law. When I was over in Social Security I went to cabinet, with a law to equate illegitimate children to legitimate and that is in itself law reform. It has not yet read in parliament, because it has to be sent to this ministry here for vetting.

There is so much to do in law reform in Grenada, I was thinking about it this morning. It is not something that can be done by our present members of staff; it is too voluminous. We need somebody working on that full time in commercial law, hire purchase law, criminal law, and the anti drugs law. Going back to commercial law; we need a sale of goods act.

Even in terms of lawyer-client relation, we need a law setting up a body to which the public can complain. If they think that they have not gotten proper professional services from their lawyers. So that there is a whole scope of modern law not yet introduced to Grenada, as far as I can

see for the time being. Because we do not have the resources we are shopping around to get money and man power, to concentrate on just law reform. Just as we would be having somebody to concentrate on law revision. But those are the two big challenges which are very dear to my heart. Law REFORM and Law REVISION.

Q. *You have a great back-log of cases in the courts of Grenada, are you concerned about them?*

A. Very much concerned about that, in so much so, as you know, we have now appointed a second high court judge. So we have two high court judges in place and the reason why we have specifically have a second high court judge appointed, is that we wanted to reduce and eventually get rid of the back-log of cases in the Supreme Court.

In the Court of Appeal, things are very much better. We don't have that kind of background in the court of appeal, whereas in the magistrate court, it been intolerable but already we are beginning to see the light, at the other end of the tunnel. As I said, we are about to have a fourth magistrate appointed, when that happens he will be in the city here, in the Southern District. We will have two magistrates here and they will be better able to wade into the back-log. We are lucky, we have just been able to attract back on the bench

Miss (Patricia) Mark. She is a very hard working person; and Mr (Jerome) Ford on the Western front, he is quietly but diligently going about the business of getting into the backlog. Mr (Anthony) Roberts, is on the Eastern front and he is doing what he can, but I am confident that once we have the fourth magistrate put into place, I suppose we have him put into place next week; I believe that in about six months time substantial progress would have been made, in getting rid of the backlog.

Q. *Do magistrates in Grenada complain about being over-worked?*

A. The fact that you have the back-log is sufficient evidence, that we do not have enough magistrates on board. So I am moving to have the fourth and even when we would have the fourth in place, we still would have to give consideration to the question as to whether we have enough magistrates in place.

Q. *You have visited some of our courts and I understand you were not impressed on finding the environment in which justice in Grenada is dispensed. It appears to be worse derelicted and at best depressing.*

A. Yes, the place for administering justice does injustice to

justice. Really it is not all that bad here in the city. The court in Gouyave is really deplorable to say the least and what making it even more unacceptable is that the actual core of the building is attractive, it is a stately building there, just as Victoria, those two buildings are quite stately and to that extent it is even more unfortunate to have these buildings in this run down situation in which they are now.

Fortunately, our good friends, the Americans are coming to our rescue. Again they have instituted a USAID Justice Improvement Project, which is not just confined to Grenada, it is Caribbean-wide I think, and it is out of this project, for example, that you are seeing this good furnishing here (in office), chairs, filing cabinet and venetian blinds.

The project is divided into stages: The quick impact phase, out of which we have been able to get the furnishing for my office; out of which we have been able to put relatively modern typing machines across the states, in all the court houses and a decent chair. That is the short term phase. We are looking to the long term phase which comes into place, when the quick impact project is exhausted.

It is out of that project that we are hoping to get money to repair the court houses in St. Davids, Gouyave, Victoria, and Sauteurs. Sauteurs is very bad; the Sauteurs

building is not as stately as the Gouyave and Victoria building. The thing about it, is that justice is respected more, when it is administered in comely buildings. People have a bigger impression of the majesty of the law when they go into a building, which commands their respect. When on the other hand, you administer justice in run-down buildings, people have less appreciation for the law and quite rightly so, and it is not indeed encouraging to the magistrates, to get the public to come in and give evidence.

It does no good to the whole aura of the law, the dignity of the law to have it administered in these shacks, which for the time being they are administered in. So you are quite right to say that I was far from being impressed with these buildings, but again we recognise that from our own-domestic resources, not much can be done, and we therefore are forced to look to our friends. Another of our friends is the British. They are currently giving attention to what is called the St. Georges Legal Complex, which would address the question of some of our facilities, here at the interior complex in St. Georges.

We need for example, another high court. The second high court in the city is occupying what really is a magistrates' court, and we are looking in the matter of funding for that. These plans had not been pursued as

actively as it should have been in the past, but we have emphasize the importance of these projects now, so that really the future looks encouraging.

It will require hard work. We are fortunate to have a very good permanent secretary with us, Mr. Osbert Benjamin and to him, will fall responsibility for seeing to, that this project are put in place. We have a good team on board, experience practioners, like Mr Lambert, who is the solicitor general, he's going to have an operation next week and we wish him well. The legal adviser Mr Helyger, we are very lucky to have Miss Hylton as the acting DPP; I'm hoping she would stay on, she hasn't given me a word, one way or the other as yet. In fact, that is one of our problems the whole question of manpower, because the wages for public lawyers, that is the lawyers in the Government service, clearly cannot compare with what you can get in private practice. So it does require some sacrifice and some preparedness to make a contribution, to national development to get a lawyer into the public sector, but we are coping as best we can.

Q. *I understand you intend to take measures to deal with lawyers who are not performing adequately?*

A. That is not a happy way to put it. In fact, you will be

happy to know that the lawyers, themselves, when I met them the first time around, agreed that the time has come to have in place, legislation which would regulate the relationship between the lawyer and the client. That is important, not only for the client, but to assure the client that he is getting a fair deal. It is also important for the lawyer, so that his professional reputation is not drag down into the gutter. It is important for the whole administration of justice because you want the public, to have confidence that they are getting a fair deal from the lawyers and it is of course, important to the nation as a whole, because where there is not a feeling of confidence in justice, the democratic system to that extent is undermined.

You cannot have democracy in its full flight, where the people do not have confidence in any one important inputs into the administration of justice and clearly a very important input into the administration of justice is the performance of the private bar of practicing lawyers.

What the legislation will do, I expect, is that it will set up a body, a mutual body, in which the public will have confidence; a body in which the bar will have confidence. These body will be competent to receive complaints from the public, regarding legal services provided to the public, that is somewhat different from

saying I intend to deal with lawyers. I have no authority to deal with lawyers and I do not think that the way to go forward is the Attorney General dealing with the lawyers. I think the way to go forward is as this is the case now lawyers recognising, that they have a responsibility to the public, to assure the public and to make the public feel satisfy that the lawyers are giving the public a fair deal.

Q. *What do you intend to do about encouraging the less well-off in society to be better represented in courts? For example, the Government providing legal-aid.*

A. Well, indeed cabinet has already agreed, since I've been in this ministry to expand the delivery of what you call legal-aid. Traditionally, you get legal aid mainly in murder cases. If a man is charge with murder, the difference between murder and manslaughter in that sense, is not all that profound from the viewpoint of the lay man and indeed you can start off with a murder trial and end up with a manslaughter conviction. So that it does seem sensible to extend state legal aid to manslaughter cases.

I am also interested to have legal aid expanded to other areas, example, modern tenant, maybe even contracts; it seems to me for example that landlords and tenants relationship would be a classic area for legal

assistance. We have in this ministry a person, who have a long record on legal aid, the deputy minister for legal affairs. The Hon. Tillman Thomas, and I know that he too is very keen on that. It may be that we might have to set up a sort of public defender concept, where you will have in the ministry, somebody who will be dealing with public complaints, that sort of thing. We have not quite followed it through, again we would be face to the questions of lack of resources, the perennial problem but we are thinking about it.

Q. *Are you concerned about the allegations levelled at the magistrate courts, that they more often than not appears to favour the police?*

A. Oh! that is very far from being correct; very far from correct. Indeed very often the police goes in the courts without a lawyer by their side, whereas the accuse would tend to go in with a lawyer, say for example, a case recently where regulations made by the chief of police was thrown out, the accuse had a lawyer, the police had no lawyer, that is quite often the case. So that if anything, indeed, the police are at a disadvantage and that's it. I have to say that the ministry is very concerned to correct that disadvantage and we are going to do what we can to make sure that the public interest, in

the administration of justice is represented in the magistrates court. The matter of trying somebody in the magistrates court, is not a private thing between the police and the accuse, the national interest is involved. You don't want to have

innocent people convicted, surely, but by the same token, you don't want to have guilty persons being free. The national interest, the public interest is in striking a happy balance on which innocent persons are not convicted and at

the same time guilty persons do not go free.

Q. In general, are you happy that justice is well served in Grenada?

A. I am new to the ministry and I am looking to see how it

goes.

The interview with Dr. Francis Alexis will continue next week when he deals with labour issues.

[No continuation available.]

Griffith Letter to Blaize

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 11 Apr 87 p 4

[Open letter to the prime minister]

[Text]

Dear Prime Minister,

Over the last few weeks as you are well aware, I have been campaigning and calling for accountability in all areas of public life in particular and expressed grave concern about the public's lack of confidence in our police force.

From the political platform of the opposition I regularly called for an investigation into the police force and the sacking of its chief officer. Sir, I'm glad you've come to your senses and have bowed to the pressure of the public and the opposition. Of course, I am aware that you may wish to say Mr. Russel Toppin resigned. I am sure you are also aware that a Grenadian politician once said he could walk on water. In Grenadian language "we en stupid again, we overs that, them days gone through".

Sir, I appeal to you as the Minister responsible for National Security to act in a responsible manner. I fail to understand how the most senior Police Officer can resign and you find yourself unable to inform the nation in your regular Friday night broadcast. In fact, when I called the

leader of the Opposition for a confirmation on the sacking of Mr. Toppin, he said 'boy like you I'm in the dark, ah hear so!'

Prime Minister on such an important matter it was your duty to give the apprehension about our security to inform the Opposition leader of your intention. Your failure to do so can only force one to conclude that you, sir, do not believe in the democratic practice. I can assure you the opposition will continue calling for accountability in both houses.

Sir, you have not announced a successor to Mr. Toppin. I urge you in the name of the country and the good of our police force, do not appoint an Englishman or a Grenadian who has been abroad to head our police force.

I don't know where you've been during the last several years, some of us were imprisoned for our beliefs, some got killed, others left the country. But, sir, as every Grenadian knows - "Who feels it knows it" we felt the weight of the Revol! Many of our police suffered un-

der Gairy and under the PRG, which all but destroyed our police force. They stood up there and felt the weight of the Revol! Why not when we are trying to rebuild our police force, those who've been loyal to us and have tried to maintain a police force in the country are being overlooked in preference to friends and foreigners?

I want to tell you quite clearly, sir, the public will not be pleased if our next chief of police does not come from within the ranks of the Royal Grenada Police Force.

Sir, perhaps you have forgotten some of your election promises:

"The New National Party will insist on proper training for all members of the Police Service. An educated, efficient and skilled police force is essential for national development. The new police officer must be seen as protector and not as tyrant. The public must have confidence in our law enforcement officers and recognise that they exist for every one's protection and feel a natural compul-

sion to respect the integrity of the Law!"
Page 8, NN? Manifesto.

May be I should point out to you what one of your Ministers said recently. - You cannot have democracy in its full flight, where the people do not have confidence in any one important input into the administration of justice.....

Francis Alexis.

Everywhere I go in the country I tell the people that you are a Gairyite - that's what Gairy said to me. Your political corner is characterised by one term in office while you are entitled to be a Gairyite I don't think you are entitled to treat the nation with contempt. I have no doubt that we will remove you from office because every thing you do is 'blunderous'.

While you do not care what happens to the country, because you know next time around you will not be in office, I will personally hold you responsible if our police is further demoralised and our economy is returned to being centrally planned.

Senator,
Terrance Griffith.

Resignees' News Conference

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 16 Apr 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

FORMER Legal Affairs Minister Dr. Francis Alexis is predicting that the New National Party government of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize will not survive this week's three resignations.

"The NNP as presently constituted, stands no better chance surviving than a snowball in hell," Dr. Alexis told a press conference on Wednesday.

The press conference was called by Dr. Alexis and former Education Minister George Brizan as well as former Parliamentary Secreary for Legal Affairs Tillman Thomas, all of whom resigned on Monday.

The two ministers resigned after they were asked to apologise for their contributions in parliament last Friday in which they were critical of government's retrenchment plan, or quit. Mr Thomas then followed in solidarity.

"I am going to be amused to see the party remaining in office for a good while yet. It will be the most unpopular government we would ever had seen," Dr. Alexis told a reporter in a separate

interview.

The three former government members are expected to quit the party itself within the next few hours. One regional report quoted Alexis as saying that he had already left. All Mr Thomas was willing to say at the press conference was, "I am giving it serious consideration" to which Mr Brizan added "so do we."

Without being specific, Dr. Alexis said the NNP "has been hijacked." He added; "History shows any party that has been hijacked by a small clique will die sooner rather than later."

Dr. Alexis said an, time the "grass roots" section of the party (NNP) passed a resolution it has been ignored, noting that it has been no accident that village groups had "withered and died."

He also said; "The (NNP) convention of 1986 went a considerable distance in inviting us to review our relationship with the party." Dr. Alexis added; "where on earth can you ever hear that you are having a fair election for any post in this country, and Ben Jones is going to beat George Brizan? (in reference to the election for deputy political leader). It is unheard of really."

The three have hinted strongly that they will

forming their own political party to counter the NNP soon. One report circulating here quoted Mr. Brizan as saying that they should put together a "formidable organisation" within the next six months.

Dr Alexis said at the press conference that "a political party is not something that is declared" but "grows from the roots of the nation if it is to survive." He said; "we have no intention to just inflict any organisation on the people."

He said the real issue now for the "trio" is "mass political education." The former Legal Affairs minister declared; "Across the by-ways and highways of the nation we will be there grounding with our brothers and sisters, not in the mud-slinging type, but discussing issues."

When one reporter asked if it is likely that they will "come together" with the official opposition who is now basically doing the same thing, Dr. Alexis' reply was; "At the end of the day my hope will be that all Grenadians will come together."

Alexis' Grenada Democratic Movement, and Brizan's New Democratic Party came together with Blaize's Grenada National Party to form the NNP just prior to the December

1984 elections at the bidding of some regional leaders to counter the threat of ex-dictator Eric Gairy.

The 1984 election was the first after US led an intervention to the island in 1983 after the military had taken over in a leftist coup following the slaying of then Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, who himself was installed in a 1979 revolution.

CRITICAL ASSESSMENTS OF POLITICAL SITUATION WIDESPREAD

Gairy on Alexis Remarks

St Georges GRENADA GUARDIAN in English 17 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] Attorney General and Minister of Labour, Dr. Francis Alexis, one of the NNP renegade Cabinet Ministers, made a mockery of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize in a callous demonstration of indecorum, impropriety and disrespect for leadership during his, Alexis', address on the 1987 Budget in the House of Representatives last Friday.

Not satisfied with criticising the conduct of the police force up to very recently, condemning its apparent indifference to the drugs problem and generally trying to disassociate himself from all the ills perpetrated by the Government as though he had no hand in them as a Cabinet Minister, Alexis kept taunting and mimicking the Prime Minister, imploring him to smile and not keep a long face, and when Blaize tried to oblige telling: "not so. Smile, not grin", or words to that effect.

Sir Eric Gairy, president of the GULP, strongly condemns this public mockery of Blaize, whom he terms "a statesman and politician, weak as he might be as a national leader, by political jokers like Alexis, Brizan and Mitchell.

Gairy on Blaize 'Weakness'

St Georges GRENADA GUARDIAN in English 17 Apr 87 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister Herbert Blaize is "Too weak to be wicked", and it is the "strongman like Brizan, Alexis and Keith Mitchell, academicians but mere kindergarten politicians nonetheless, who pose the real danger to the socio-economic welfare of the country, former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy told a GULP public meeting of some eight hundred supporters at Carriman Corner, Mt. Carmel, St. Andrew's last Sunday afternoon.

Commenting on statements made by Alexis and Brizan last Friday in the House of Representatives and in the U.S. previously tending to disassociate themselves from certain aspects of Government policy, Sir Eric remarked: "They all sat in Cabinet behind closed doors and agreed on all sorts of oppressive taxation and retrenchment measures to disrupt family life and hurt the people. Now, in

the face of popular reaction, now that they realise the NNP ship is sinking, like the rats they are they want to put all the blame on Blaize, the same man they told the people before the last elections was the best leader for this country. "This attempt of theirs to avoid the avalanche of public anger is dishonest, vote-catching, diabolical hypocrisy", the GULP leader said.

Taking the drug business as an example, Sir Eric said that there was little doubt that Cabinet has been covering-up because a minister of government is suspected to be involved and that former Senior Magistrate, Lyle St. Paul was transferred to Grenville because he had urged the police to bring before him the 'big fish' dealers instead of the marijuana small fries.

"When the various newspapers started to kick a stink, however, Government promoted him to where he was long overdue - a nuisance judgship," [as published] Sir Eric observed.

These young intellectual weight-lifters would do anything to satisfy their greed, and Keith Mitchell was the first man who sent six barrels of petroleum jelly to Bishop, Sir Eric pointed out. "It was Keith Mitchell and others who really started the 1979 trouble. Bishop merely came and took-over", he said.

Fear of Street Politics

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 25 Apr 87 p 1

THE THREE former government officials who resigned last week were cheered on by a crowd of about 400 when they held the first in a series of political meetings to explain their positions at St. Pauls last week Thursday night.

Reports say that at one point Dr. Francis Alexis was raised by the crowd.

In an address to the gathering, Dr. Alexis promised to lead "big" demonstrations in Grenada if government goes ahead with plans to retrench 1,800 workers.

In an apparent reaction to that particular statement, the Grenada Hotel Association in a press statement this week expressed "extreme concern" with "the latest political developments which appear to have transferred political debate from the house of parliament to the streets of the nation."

The GHA called on Grenadians, the government and the opposition to act with restraints since there could be "severe economic and social repercussions resulting from political instability."

Alexis on Blaize 'Deception'

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 1 May 87 p 3

[Article by Stephen Andall]

[Text] Dr. Francis Alexis told a crowd of over 500 people in Gouyave last Sunday evening that the prime Minister was deceiving the nation and speaking "untruth" by saying that government has set up employment training programmes for retrenched workers.

"This statement is untruthful" he said, "government has not even set up one training programme for retrenched workers".

Alexis was speaking at a meeting which was one in a series explaining why he and his two other colleagues, George Brizan and Tillman Thimasa quit the government.

Alexis told the people that after the prime minister had broadcast to the nation that the government had employment programmes for the retrenched workers, he, Dr Alexis, went into parliament and asked the prime minister to take him to one of those places, but he said the prime minister refused, stating that what he meant was that there are training programmes currently going on around the island which the retrenched workers could participate if they feel to.

"How can we continue with such a deceiving prime minister," he said.

Meanwhile speaking further on retrenchment, Alexis said that instead of retrenching workers, government should develop more local industries and an income tax on big salary earners in order to help the "poor suffering grass-roots."

Brizan on 'Gutter Politics'

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 1 May 87 p 16

[Text] Opposition parliamentarian George Brizan has accused some members of the New National Party of "wanting to bring back the worst aspects of gutter politics" here.

Mr. Brizan was commenting on an apparent attempt to disturb a public meeting he, and his two other colleagues who recently resigned from the government, were holding in Gouyave on Sunday night.

Electricity went out in Gouyave just before the meeting started, and there was a stone-throwing incident when the meeting went on in almost complete darkness. Mr. Brizan said at a press conference here this week that the fact there was no electricity could be a co-incidence, but he and his colleagues did not think so. He said it was a "a deliberate act".

The former Education Minister also said; "Someone set up one or two persons to throw stones. It was not the GULP (Grenada United Labour Party), and certainly it was not the MBPM (Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement), but some one from some other group". When questioned further Mr. Brizan said that he was "absolutely certain" it was someone from the NNP.

According to our reporter in Gouyave the "trio" were "thunderously cheered by over 500 people" inspite of the incidents. He said that at one point the crowd chanted, "They can't stop us; they can't stop us".

The report further stated that Sunday night's blackout was the longest in Gouyave for this year.

No one was hurt from the stone-throwing incident, as the three occasion the stones were pelted they fell away from the main crowd.

Both Mr. Brizan, and his colleague Dr. Francis Alexis called on Glen Mignon, Prime Minister Herbert Blaize's security advisor, who was observing the meeting, to take note of what they called the criminal and violent behaviour of their political opponents.

Brizan said at one point; "I hope the security advisor is taking note of who are the first ones to start the violence."

Mr. Brizan described the response they have been getting from the public during their series of meetings as "tremendous".

The series of meetings which they have been having continues this week-end with one in Crochu on Sunday night. They were scheduled to be in Birchgrove Thursday night.

The lowest turn-out so far has reportedly been in Pomme Rose. Our St. David's reporter say about 150 people turned out to the meeting.

Criticism of Cabinet Makeup

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 1 May 87 pp 3, 16

[Text]

THE three former ministers who recently resigned from the government have criticised the composition of the new cabinet, and said it augurs for higher inefficiency.

In reference to the new cabinet, Mr. George Brizan, one of the officials said "they will be swimming in very deep and turbulent waters."

The three resigning officials made their feelings known at a press conference they held on Tuesday. It was the second conference since the resignations of Brizan, Tillman Thomas and Francis Alexis two weeks ago.

Mr. Brizan took up issue particularly with the extended ministries of Mr. Ben Jones, who is now in charge of six departments of government, and Mr. George

McGuire who is in charge of nine.

Mr. Brizan said that based on the "level of work" that was done by Mr. Jones when he had two ministries, one can assume that the level of productivity will now be lower.

He also criticised the putting of the departments of local government and labour in the hands of Mr. McGuire, saying those should be managed by someone with some "legal competence".

Mr. Thomas, who himself was a former parliamentary secretary, predicted that the drafting in of the four other former parliamentary secretaries within the cabinet would not make them effective participants. He said this was only done because of a feeling of "insecurity".

Mr. Thomas said that

based on his experience, the four ministers of state will be bypassed.

Dr. Alexis described the cabinet "loop-sided" and a "clique of five" saying the Prime Minister showed no confidence in the four ministers of state. He said this was shown by heaping ministries on the current ministers without making any of the former parliamentary secretaries full fledged ministers.

Following the resignation of the three, Prime Minister Herbert Blaize made Ben Jones, in addition to being Minister of External Affairs, Agriculture, Lands and Tourism, also Minister of Legal

Affairs and Attorney General. Mr. George McGuire was made Minister of Social Services and Education with responsibility for Labour, Local Government, Social Security, Fisheries Co-operatives, Civil Aviation, Culture, Youth and Sport.

Ms. Pauline Andrew was made Minister of State in Jones' Ministry, while Mr. Felix Alexander was made the same in McGuire's Ministry with special responsibility for Fisheries. Mr. Alleyne Walker is the Minister of State in the Ministry of Works, and Ms. Grace Duncan is the same in the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

/13046

CSO: 3298/222

YOUTHS TURNING TO GAIRY FOR SOLUTION TO UNEMPLOYMENT

St Georges GRENADA GUARDIAN in English 17 Apr 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Youths all over the island have been turning to Sir Eric Gairy to lead them out of their present predicament of 'widespread unemployment, and a number of groups have been inviting him to hold 'rapping' sessions with them.

The most recent are two invitations from two separate clubs in one area in St. David's, with whom, because of their proximity to each other and pressure of work on Sir Eric, the former Prime Minister and veteran Labour Leader proposed to hold a joint session very 'shortly.

Just over a week ago, as the "GRENADA GUARDIAN"

reported in its last issue, Sir Eric held a man-to-man rapping session with some Rastafarians and other youths in Paraclete.

Grenadian youths 'seem to be getting to realise the falsity of the anti-Gairy propaganda spread by the regime which seized power in 1979 and which the present administration continues to perpetuate.

Ironically, some of the young people who were themselves involved with the PRA are expressing the view that, so far as they are concerned, Grenada has had only two leaders for the last three decades -

Bishop and Gairy -
and now that
Bishop is gone they
have no alternative
but to go? GULP.

/3298/222

PARLIAMENT SCENE OF NNP DISSIDENTS-GOVERNMENT DEBATE

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 25 Apr 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

AMIDST ALLEGATIONS and counter-attacks, innuendos and accusations of "theatrics", numerous interruptions for "points of order" and lengthy debates, a parliamentary sitting took place on Wednesday. The sitting was followed with a new lease of public interest here since three members were sitting on the opposition side of the house for the first time.

It was the first appearance in parliament for Dr. Francis Alexis, Mr. George Brizan and Mr. Tillman Thomas since their resignations from the New National Party government last week.

The unemployment and retrenchment issue over which the three members had resigned featured prominently in the debates especially on the bill to facilitate the reorganisation of the public sector through the retirement of public servants. In the end the bill was passed through all the three stages after lengthy debates, as were the two other bills on real property tax, and the business levy.

The real "showdown" as one observer put it was between Communications and Works Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell (on the government side) in particular, and members of the opposition, particularly Dr. Francis Alexis.

Dr. Mitchell came under severe attacks in the house from the opposition bench.

Mr. Thomas, parliamentary representative for St. Patrick's East accused the Minister of "aiding and abetting" the "hijacking" of the public works department in Sauteurs, without going into details.

Dr. Alexis accused the Minister of Works of sending home daily paid workers in his ministry and bringing in his own "lackeys". At one point, Dr. Mitchell smiled at the accusations to which Dr. Alexis, who had promised early on that it will be "a different power game" in parliament responded; "Smile? But who laughs last Mr. Speaker, laughs the best."

Accusing government members of "laughing" when people are being thrown out of work, Dr. Alexis said "they (the government) have no moral and social conscience" and he said that he will "go and eat grass" with the unemployed.

In response later, Dr. Mitchell accused members of the opposition of "opportunistic intellectualism" and said the "real issue" was not retrenchment but "basic posture for political power and the whole population know that."

In reference to an earlier statement by Dr. Alexis, Dr. Mitchell said; "I am proud to be a house slave under Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, (and) not be the house slaves under some mad man."

Earlier on Dr. Alexis in reference to his being asked to apologise for statements made as a government member, had said; "He who apologises when he does nothing wrong, is nothing but a mouse, not worthy of sitting in the house." Saying one can ask his former ally

(Dr. Mitchell), the Ex-Labour Minister went on to add; "You do not find in my veins the blood of the house slaves."

Dr. Mitchell defended the accusation that his ministry was sending home daily paid workers, saying there has long been in place a "rotation system" where daily paid workers were given work in turn.

Education and Social Services Minister George McGuire accused the members of the opposition of having a "fixation" for Dr. Mitchell, saying, "when one has a fixation he is ... prone to mislead the country." He accused the opposition of trying to strike a "sweet chord" on the retrenchment issue, adding; "I hope our people are a wise people who do not respond to every tune."

He said no government member is happy about the retrenchment issue, but it is a course that has to be charted if Grenada is to survive economically.

During the debates the opposition members painted Prime Minister Blaize as a man who is set on an economic course and would not change inspite of advice. "I asked for dialogue not autocratic arrogance...."

Dr. Alexis said at one point in reference to the government's dealing with the private sector on the business levy.

Opposition Parliamentarian Kenny Lansingh dare the government to take their economic policies to the people in the form of referendum. But Mr. McGuire replied; "We will go to the polls at the proper time when we unmask the masked men." Instead, he said, the members of the opposition should resign their seats since they won on an NNP ticket, and go to the polls as individuals. However Mr. Thomas quickly advised him to "go cool on that". He said; "If wasn't for us, you would not have been here". Describing the regime as a "circumstantial government" he said the whole nation know how the Grenada National Party faction had come through "the back door".

Opposition Leader Phinsley St. Louis later commented on the whole debate. He said; "I cannot say the debates were on the bill in any honesty". He later added; "It is unfortunate that it had to gravitate to such a low level..... while we might go off, too much of it went on."

/13046

CSO: 3298/222

FISHERMEN HURTING AFTER BEING DRIVEN OUT OF MARTINIQUE

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 7 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] Hundreds of fishermen from the sister islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique are finding that they have one market less for their catch. And for them it is a vital market, as one fisherman told GRENADIAN VOICE LAST week, "thousands of pounds of fish are "rotting" on the wharfs here as a result.

This state of affairs is a result of the local fishermen being driven out of the French colony of Martinique, where they had a "ready" market for their catch.

Captain Paul Bethel, owner of the boat "Content" told the VOICE that when they went to sell their fish "as usual" they were driven out by "about eight to nine hundred Martiniquan fishermen" who attacked them with "guns, cutlasses, gas-bombs and other dangerous instruments."

The local fishermen are also claiming that their Martiniquan counterparts seized some of their catch, but they were able to return with "thousands" of pounds.

Given reasons for the development, the sister island's fishermen said the Martiniquans may have become angry after Spanish fishing boats continued to bring in "white fish" to be sold there, though the island was in their 'white fish season.'

One news agency report out of Martinique quoted fisheries officials there as saying that Grenada's fishermen were loading the market with fish which they were selling at very low prices, undercutting the Martiniquan fishermen.

A delegation of the sister island's fishermen met with their parliamentary representative and Prime Minister Herbert Blaize on the issue last week, and subsequently, Mr Blaize sent a protest to the French Embassy in Castries, St Lucia.

One report also said that fisheries officials have promised the fishermen from the sister island to find alternative markets for their catch, and they were also told that the Artisanal Fisheries Project, will buy some of their catch for the time being.

/9274

CSO: 3298/208

HAVANA MEDICAL GRADUATES GRANTED 'QUALIFIED' APPROVAL

FL280111 Bridgetown CANA in English 2152 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] St George's, 27 Apr (CANA)--The University of the West Indies (UWI) has given a qualified bill of health to Grenadians who graduated in medicine from Havana University in Cuba, Health Minister Danny Williams said today.

UWI said that Havana University is as good as any, the minister said, but they left areas open. They said it is up to us whether we wish to accept diplomas from the university.

Late last year, general medical practitioners who qualified at Havana University returned to Grenada but were denied registration without which they were unable to practise here.

The doctors, who began their studies under the auspices of the pro-Cuba People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), which ruled Grenada from 1976 to 1983, were told by the current administration at first that, before they could be registered as medical practitioners, they would have to sit and pass examinations set by UWI.

Williams said that, in Barbados, these graduates would have been made to sit the examinations, but another plan was put into operation.

About four months ago, he said, Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize and counterparts from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) met and agreed that the Havana graduates would be eligible for registration after doing two years of internship.

The graduates resisted this approach, Williams said, but it has been endorsed by both the medical association here and the registration board.

His problem, the minister of health said, was to accept these graduates into the health service and provide them with salaries when there had been no budget provision for them. There had been 13 such graduates, he said, and after searching for money within the system, 10 had been employed here and, he understood, the others had been taken on by other OECS governments.

/9274

CSO: 3298/208

BRIEFS

CHAMBER LEADERSHIP--President of the Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce has resigned his post. In a letter to the Chamber, Mr. Pitt said that his resignation was for personal reasons over which he had "no control". It is understood that his speech, given at the launching of the Grenada Manufacturers' Association two weeks ago at the Ramada Renaissance, had something to do with it. Reports say Chamber members voiced their displeasure with it and this helped to hasten his resignation. [Text] [St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 25 Apr 87 p 3] Edwin Decol is now president of the Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce following last week's resignation of former president Brian Pitt. Mr. Decol, formerly first vice president of the GCIC, will take up the appointment on his return from abroad where he is presently on business. Hugh Dolland who was second vice president of the Chamber is now the first vice president. [Excerpt] [St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 1 May 87 p 16] /13046

CSO: 3298/222

RDNP CONVENTION OPENS, MANIGAT SPEAKS OUT

Port au Prince HAITI LIBEREE in French 24-27 Apr 87 pp 1, 6-7

[Interview with Secretary General Leslie Manigat by Smith Barthelus]

[Text] After Caracas and Curacao, it is the turn of Port-au-Prince to receive the national and foreign delegates of the RDNP (Rally of Progressive National Democrats) for a third convention of this political organization which was established 8 years ago in 1979. Yesterday morning, the RDNP showed its mettle--as if that were necessary--as a political movement at the Djoumbala Night Club; for 3 consecutive days, delegates who had come from all parts of the country and from abroad reflected together on common problems involved in working out the best strategy that would make it possible to solve those problems. They also had the job of picking the man who, in their opinion, will represent the RDNP best during next November's presidential election.

To start this effort, which is of the utmost importance to the party of Leslie F. Manigat, a rather special ceremony was held yesterday morning. There was recognition of militants--retired Colonel and former diplomat Pierre L. Rigaud, as well as teachers, such as Professor Fritz de la Fuente and Mrs Laura Barnatte--with some breaks in between. Pierre L. Rigaud was the first to speak. "There must be neither victor nor vanquished after next November's elections; instead, there must be a people proud of having democratically done its civic duty, a people united in the determination to build its future together." Professor Fritz de la Fuente, who followed at the microphone, saw this convention, "as a victory for all those who believe in a better future." In his opinion, "The country's crisis is much more moral rather than material."

The remarks by Mrs Manigat gave the members of the Diplomatic Corps, who attended the opening of this convention, as well as leaders Gregoire Eugene (PSCH [Social Christian Party of Haiti]), Thomas Desulme (PNT [National Labor Party?]), Louis Dejoie II (PAIN), Maurepas Auguste (MDU [United Democratic Movement?]), and Pasteur Dumas (Paradis) and the other invited guests, the impression that this was an act of confession after 25 years in exile. This can of course be understood since she accompanied her husband throughout his travels in exile. The report by Secretary General Professor Leslie Manigat finally gave us an idea of the route travelled by the RDNP. Mr Manigat had already disclosed to us his fighting strategies in the interview he gave us 24 hours prior to the convention; we were unable to publish it yesterday

morning because of an unfortunate power failure which lasted all evening and which prevented us from publishing HAITI LIBEREE. The first question makes reference to the date (Thursday) on which we received his responses.

H.L. [HAITI LIBEREE]: Mr Manigat, the RDNP is on the eve of its third national convention. What advance statements can we get on this convention?

L.M. [Leslie Manigat]: First of all, this is the third convention which means that we already had two conventions during the eight years of our existence. We organized our first national convention in Caracas in April 1981. This first convention was attended by about 50 delegates who had come from all of our regional branches and from some regions in the interior; its main purpose was to lay the institutional foundations of the movement. We adopted the constitution and the bylaws of the movement during that national convention which we therefore call the Constituent Convention of the RDNP. We held the second national convention three years later in Curacao. Like the first convention, this convention was attended by delegates from all of our regional branches and members from the interior. We also had about 50 delegates in attendance since the rule at the time was three delegates at most for each regional branch. This convention studied all problems but particularly concentrated on the question of the general strategy of the RDNP, the fighting strategy during and after the dictatorship.

We have now come to the third convention which is important to us because this is the first convention to be held on national territory in "Liberated Haiti." This convention is thus of the utmost importance for us because it is the convention of the democratic opening, the first one in Haiti. It is very important since it is the convention which, for the first time, will present our initial organizational establishment results after one year of intensive, patient, and discrete study in the country, through the rural sections.

Finally, this convention is important because it comes at a crucial moment in the evolution of democracy. We are now heading toward the elections. It is therefore a pre-election convention. For us, it somehow launches the election campaign since it is at this convention that we will, on the one hand, determine the criteria for the choice of our candidates for the July elections, the local, CASER, and municipal elections, and, on the other hand, the legislative and presidential elections in November. At this convention however we will also pick the official candidate of the RDNP for the office of president of the republic. For all of these reasons, the third convention is of considerably importance to us.

H.L.: What is the position of the RDNP on the current political scene?

M.L.: We were able to consolidate our position precisely because we are a party which has 8 years of experience, of struggle, and of organization. We are a party that rejects extremes, hence we are a party of the center. But in rejecting extremes--because we believe that the solution to the Haitian political crisis cannot be found through extremes, neither the Far Right, nor the Far Left--we want a centrist option; but since the political area of the

center is pluralist, we place ourselves resolutely at the progressive center, that is to say, at the Center-Left. But when we say Center-Left, this has nothing to do with collectivist options. Absolutely nothing. We have chosen the option of liberal democracy and, as you know, we insisted on promoting liberal democracy in Haiti. For example, we are behind the agreement signed by the Center for the Defense and Promotion of Liberal Democracy. We are thus a party of the center but our progressive concern, that is to say, our concern for social justice in favor of the urban and rural popular masses, persuades us to take up our position to the left of the center, in other words, the Center-Left. This means that we are, by virtue of our unit structure, in a position to receive--and we are indeed receiving--individuals who belong to three political-ideological families:

(1) The Liberals of Social Progress; this is important for us because the Liberals of Social Progress somehow represent the moderate wing.

(2) The Democratic Christians (the Christian Democrats) and the Social Christians or (Christian Socials). For us, this is an extremely important family, a family which basically constitutes the pivot of the rally, that is to say, those who in Christianity seek the source of inspiration for social justice, for respect for the human individual, for the promotion of the dignity of the human individual, and for our nationalist, democratic and progressive ideology. So, we have the second family here: the Christian Democratic and Christian Social family; we furthermore--and this is no secret--have the official, public support of the International of Christian Democracy. This support was given to me first of all at San Jose, in Costa Rica, at the meeting of the ODCA [Christian Democratic Organization of America]; it was then confirmed for me at Rome last year during the meeting of the Italian Christian Democratic Party and it was also confirmed officially during the meeting of the International of Christian Democracy in Portugal in May of the year which has just ended.

(3) Finally, we have the third family that constitutes the most advanced wing of our movement; it is the Social Democratic family, that is to say, we accept people who want to reconcile socialist humanism with liberty and this is a fundamental point. The people who want to put together their aspirations that sprang from a humanistic socialism with the demand for liberal democracy. Thus we have always had more relations with certain parties of the Socialist International. We do not have the official support of the Socialist International (I really cannot say that) but we do have the active sympathy of many parties and Social Democratic leaders who never concealed their sympathy from us and who never tried to sell us their moral support under certain circumstances. Thus we were able to participate in meetings of the Socialist International, especially the meeting at Albufeira in Portugal, where we were a special invited guest.

H.L.: This convention follows two successive gatherings abroad and in the northern part of the country. Was there a close relationship between these two meetings and the way this convention is being held?

L.M.: The dates tell us that there was a difference. We held our first convention in April 1981. The constitution tells us that conventions must be held every 3 years. We held the second convention in April 1984 and that brings us up to April 1987 because that is exactly 3 years. This is a statutory obligation. This is because the national convention is the principal authority, the highest authority of the RDNP, the supreme instance. This of course tells us that there is a relationship. Why? Because, on the one hand, we had our two trips abroad and, on the other hand, we had the trips throughout the country, not only the trips in the North. We made a trip first of all to the South; we began in the South with Cayes Port-Salut, Chantal, Debouchet, etc. Then came Aquin, Colline d'Aquin; after that, in the Southeast, Jacmel La Vallee Jacmel, the mountains, (Jacmel), etc.; then we made a trip to the Plain of Cul-de-Sac; we went across Thomazeau, Fond Parisien, and then the Central Plateau, where we opened offices at Hinche, Lascahobas, Mirebalais, and Saut-d'Eau and, of course, the trip to the North and the Northeast, that is the trip that attracted attention because this was the first time that the people realized that we had made those trips. As for the trip to Cayes, the press did not cover it but the people knew about it because television is extremely active in Haiti; it was covered by television. The Jacmel trip did stir things up because it was covered by the radio stations of the Southeast region; this came like an echo to Port-au-Prince and the story was published in the first issue of our newspaper RASSEMBLEMENT. The trip to the Central Plateau was mentioned in the press and the news reached the city because of the work done by the offices in Hinche which are doing a tremendous job. The trip to the North was mentioned in the press and the people realized that we were at work. We planned a trip for Grande Anse in the Northwest; it is of course quite normal that these trips should help make the RDNP better known, to help it get a better foothold, to strengthen the organizational effort in the rural sections; this of course had to do with our convention which will record the results of this initial organizational and political persuasion effort throughout the land.

H.L.: Until now, all parties in Haiti have been picturing themselves as being the best. What is the position of the RDNP?

L.M.: We others, we are not so presumptuous as to say that we are the only competent, the only real party, the only one to be taken seriously. On the contrary, we want to honor the seriousness and competence of those who are our rivals in assuming the responsibility of government and we look at ourselves in terms of a generation of capable men recalling to us the time of 1879 when there were two parties, the Liberal and the National parties. Both of them were headed by staffs, intellectuals, technicians, and patriots. Today, right now, we find men of value on the political scene, men who seek the presidency. So, who is the best? Well, that is not for us to say. Of course, we are convinced that we are the best, but it is not for us to say. It is up to the people to say and the people will speak in the elections. This is therefore a very simple problem. We are going into the elections and if the people make a mistake, well, that can happen. But this simply means that we are caught in the vicissitudes of democracy, in other words, that democracy has to be learned. This is why we assign utmost importance to the job of informing the people (the people have not been sufficiently

well informed). We are conducting a dialog at the level of the rural sections; we are listening to the people, we are organizing political training seminars in the local language so that the people may be fully informed on what choice they have because, when you start playing a game, you have to know the rules, if you want to win. So, we give the people the rules of politics so that, by playing the game, the people may win. It is thus the people who will determine the final outcome.

H.L.: Are you satisfied so far with your contacts with the members of the RDNP?

L.M.: Yes, indeed. Do not forget that we had to build a party, that this country's tradition is not one of political parties. We had a tremendous job to do, a job of making everybody aware of this developmental effort, a job of discipline within the political party. People have the habit of thinking and acting the way they wish and above all they have the habit of following a man and we, we propose to them that they not follow a man because there is no Manigatism in the RDNP. We ask them that they follow an organization that proposes a program and an option for Haitian people. One must educate the people and one must prepare them for all that. This means that a tremendous job has been done and is being done and must be done. We are content with the results and we think that these results are more than just encouraging; they are excellent. I might even say, if you will allow me, that they are astonishing in the light of the political situation of Haiti at the end of the dictatorship.

H.L.: Mr Manigat, how do you assess your chances in the coming presidential election?

L.M.: Do not expect me to tell you anything other than what I believe. I believe that, if the elections are democratic, we will win. I would even go a little bit further; I do not know how--if the elections are democratic--we could not win them. Listen, you have a party which proposes a message to the people. This message goes through. You have a party that is concerned with organization, a party that does not concentrate on mushy publicity. The people are entitled to look for that publicity but we will pursue a patient labor, we will lay the groundwork, we will do a thorough job so that, assuming that our message is received, you have here a party that is concerned with organization, not with window dressing, not with the kind of hazy publicity that is done elsewhere. We will do a patient job, a thorough job, and if our message gets through and if our strategy grows,

I think we will reap the results of that labor in the elections. This is the way a farmer looks at the city folk. The city dweller wants to have everything right away, he wants a certain number of goods, he shows his property off; he wants to drive around in a Mercedes Benz; he wants to show off his luxurious home. And what does the farmer do? He knows that he wants to bring in the corn harvest; he begins by cultivating the soil and then he plants the seeds but nobody sees anything yet. Are the plants going to sprout? Then the sprouts begin to appear and that is the first result. Then the plant grows until it is ripe. Well, this is the process we have been following and it is quite normal that some day we will harvest the ripe corn.

H.L.: The current generation does not know you very well. What have you done about that?

L.M.: It is true that Duvalier did considerable damage to this country by forcing the men who expressed our hopes in 1957 for a progressive country after the departure of Duvalier, to leave, to cut their links with the country; although the decks have now been cleared, the new generation, those over 30 years of age, do not know those others who logically could take over after Duvalier. Duvalier precisely did not want to allow this generation to take over after him. He preferred to eliminate it. Who am I? First of all, I belong to a family tradition which gave this country a group of educators and politicians. I continue in this tradition. I am above all a teacher and I became a politician. I am a professor and I became a politician. My career was in teaching. I first of all studied in Paris for 5 years, from 1948 until 1953, at the Sorbonne; I studied history; I also studied international relations at the Paris Political Institute. When I returned to the country, I was employed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of National Education; at that time, Pierre Liautaud was both in the Foreign Office and at the University. So, I had a parallel career, partly as teacher. I believe I can say without being immodest, as everybody knows, that I revitalized the teaching of history in this country. I did that by introducing new methods: the school of yearbooks, the concern for scientific accuracy. I educated generations of new historians who are among the best this country has in the new generation. I believe that this is a recognized fact. I also introduced in Haiti the scientific teaching of international relations which we did not have before. I introduced the teaching of international law and of the science of international relations into this country. And, as you know, I was the first founding director of the Higher International Studies School. At the same time I began very early to become interested not only in history, that is to say, the source of our problems in the past, but also the study of concrete reality. I always wanted this country to develop a concern for the scientific study of reality from a political viewpoint. This is why I organized the 1957 University Course Conference (and I am quite proud of that). We summoned most of the technicians who had something to say, something new to say, regarding the problems of Haiti, and they had an opportunity to propose their solutions. This was a colossal success. At the time, I was considered as the idol of the younger generation. This is something which the current younger generation obviously does not know anything about, except through the memory of its elders. I continued in the same vein at Caracas. In 1980, I was able to hold a good technical conference intended to study the problem of Haitian development, in diagnostic and therapeutic terms. I got about 50 technicians together; they had come from all kinds of places abroad and also from the interior to study the case of Haiti. We also wanted to make a scientific study of our problems so that we could at last find the foundations and elements for a development policy.

Starting in 1960, I was in open conflict with the regime of Duvalier as a result of the way my career turned out. You must remember that I was here in 1957, when Duvalier came to power. I did vote for Duvalier. I voted for this man, I believed in him because I did not know him. I met Duvalier for the first time in February 1957; I had returned to the country in 1953, so I did

not really know the man. I saw a doctor in him, that is to say, a man who takes care of sick people; I saw him as a rural doctor, a man who knew the peasants; I saw him as a man familiar with pain, a man of honesty and humility. Duvalier was poor in 1957; I considered him to be a patriot who always spoke not only of the back country but of the fatherland as a whole, of nationalism, etc. Although I voted for that man, I realized the mistake I had made barely a month after he came to power when what I call the gang of the Duvalier family invaded the public administration and showed that its primary concern was not the public good, that it was not the common good. I had moments of friction and difficult moments. Finally, I had to go into hiding in 1960 after the student strike. I was arrested; I was imprisoned in January-February 1961 and then I experienced an extremely difficult situation; I was under house arrest and I was being watched. They refused to give me a passport. I finally had to seek asylum in the Argentine Embassy; I left the country as a political asylum seeker. That is when my exile began. During that exile, Duvalier even afforded himself the luxury of sentencing me to death for reasons I never found out because at that time I was not politically active. I was writing studies, denouncing what I called the fascism of underdevelopment in which Haiti existed. I did not participate in any plot, nor any invasion. I believe that this is a perhaps rare case of a person being sentenced to death for an intellectual crime, an intellectual offense.

This changed my career because from that moment on I had an international career and I must say that, because I am a man who speaks the truth and who lived in exile, I switched to a field of endeavor which perhaps I would not have reached if I had remained in Haiti. Of course, I always had a hankering for the job of teaching the younger generation, that younger generation we need, the younger generation the country needs for its salvation, and that called for a serious and specific undertaking. It is indeed true that my exile opened the way for me to what is called the international class among the worldwide intellectual community. I am proud of having taught for 10 years at the Political Institute for International Relations; I am proud of having had students who came from everywhere, the elite of the entire world, who had come to study political science in Paris.

I am proud of having been the first Caribbean director of the International Relations Institute, covering a group of countries in the English Caribbean and training diplomats of the newly independent states of the English Caribbean. I am proud of having been the organizer of the international relations section for the third cycle of political sciences at Simon Bolivar University. I am proud of having participated in about 60 scientific conferences and congresses at which I presented reports which, in the light of the reaction of the people and their subsequent publication, were certainly highly regarded. I thus had to make a career for myself, an international career as a teacher, and I could not allow myself to return to the country after 30 years as a teacher in higher international studies, covering 5 different university systems--the Haitian system for 10 years, the United States system for 1 year, in Washington, and then, later on, several visits as researcher in residence; the French system for 10 years, the Trinidad system for 5 years, and the Venezuelan system for 8 years. I believe that this gave me experience not only in education, which is something fundamental

in Haiti. Not only formal education, social, collective, community, informal, and nonformal education, but this also gave me experience in terms of the democratic countries because, during my exile, I had an opportunity always to visit democratic countries. First of all the United States, and then France and after that Trinidad (English-style democracy such as that of the Westminster system, and Venezuela, with its Latin American democracy). This enabled me to observe the way democracy works, to participate in working out the solution to the democratic problem complex. And here I believe I arrived in the country not only with a university experience, something which we call knowledge; but also with political experience and that is what I want to make available to my country. Because I cannot be a Haitian, I cannot have an international career and remain indifferent to the national decay which we have had for the past 29 years. To me, this is a duty. I love my country.

I had the opportunity of growing up not only among my family but also at the St. Louis de Gonzague Institution. I say this with pride because Brother Lucien of St. Louis de Gonzague and, before him, Brother Yves--these brothers inculcated in us a sense of the Haitian fatherland. It fell to Brother Lucien--and I will honor him later--as well as to Brother Raphael to talk about Haiti, our homeland, in relation to France, which was their country of origin. In other words, here again we were inspired with this love of our country, this sense of national duty, at the family level, at the school level, and at the level of the environment, the social environment. For us, Haiti is our fatherland. I know that I have my roots here; I cannot be an internationalist; I can have an international career; I can have friends at the international level but I belong above all to my country, as my grandfather loved to say: "Let God take care of the world, it is up to us to take care of our fatherland."

5058

CSO: 3219/8

PNP STATEMENTS OUTLINE POLICY ON IMF AGREEMENT

New Charges Against 'Secrets'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Apr 87 p 19

[Text]

In A statement issued Thursday, Mr. P.J. Patterson, Q.C., Chairman of the People's National Party and Spokesman for Planning and Development, insists that Prime Minister Edward Seaga has concealed from the public vital information about the IMF agreement.

The statement said: "The Government colleagues of Senator Babsy Grange were less than gallant in sending her out to bat on a sticky wicket in reply to my assertion that the public had been kept in the dark on certain important but worrying terms of the current I.M.F. Agreement. The extracts which she has specially selected to quote from Mr. Seaga's Parliamentary announcement, far from refuting my charges, serve only to substantiate them.

The Prime Minister spoke then of offsetting the loss of J\$173 million arising from reducing import duty, corporate taxes and granting of export rebate by eliminating certain duty free concessions, increasing Stamp Duties on Cheques, Promissory Notes, etc., as well as the tariff on Business Licences for an additional J\$122 million in revenue. He referred to a resulting short-fall of J\$50 million.

Nowhere did he tell us that the new tax regime would create additional payments of J\$170 million by the Public. He concealed that the new trade regime, widely touted as resulting in lower tariffs, would certainly net J\$31 million in additional revenue receipts.

The public was hoodwinked into believing that, once the threat of immediate devaluation had been postponed, the Agreement was a masterpiece and so the process to trigger a future devaluation was deliberately concealed from Parliament, Press and Public.

We are committed by the Agreement to adjust the exchange rate whenever

the Jamaican Dollar appreciates vis-a-vis the US dollar.

The Programme incorporates two trigger mechanisms for exchange rate action:

● i) If any target in our Net International reserve is breached, the Bank of Jamaica will have to reduce the amount of foreign exchange available at the auction so as to result in a devaluation of the Jamaican dollar.

● ii) We are also committed to devaluation whenever Jamaica's real effective exchange rate index rises by more than 5.8% from the base level of December 1986.

We challenge Senator Grange to deny that the Letter of Intent already commits us to the following measures:

a) The National Housing Trust (NHT) will scale down its net lending operations through other financial institutions by an amount approximately equivalent to J\$30 million.

b) The commercial building activities of the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) will be reduced by approximately J\$32 million.

c) The Jamaica Commodity Trading Company has restructured subsidies on powdered milk and will discontinue domestic proceedings of soybean meal, obtaining an overall saving of J\$33 million.

d) Air Jamaica will reduce its investment in transportation equipment by an amount equivalent to J\$22 million.

Mr. Charles with equal recklessness has boasted - "that the IMF has never instructed me or the Government of Jamaica to raise telephone rates." Any reference to rate increase "was (merely) recorded in the Document (IMF)."

It is not surprising that the Prime Minister in his characteristic manner

instructed him to raise rates without telling him why.

The Letter of Intent dated December 31, 1986 provides that: "Increases in telephone rates of the Jamaica Telephone Company and Jamintel will have been announced by mid-February 1987 and are expected to net a surplus to the Public Sector of J\$61 million in 1987-'88."

So much for the Minister's disclaimer. We know too well what are the consequences to Jamaica when inflated figures are inserted to "fool" the I.M.F. and we face the harsh reality of eventual failure.

No doubt, in his Budget presentation, the Prime Minister will announce with great fanfare certain changes in exchange control to an applauding chorus of sycophants. These will no longer require that remittance of incomes from immigrants' property, remittances for

family maintenance and cash gifts obtain specific approval up to certain limits. The administration of Exchange Control in all transactions will also be delegated to the Commercial Banks by the end of June and so on.

The "goodies" are at the behest of the I.M.F. and not due to the largesse of Mr. Seaga.

Perhaps Mr. Seaga may also have the grace to point out that the reduction in the Central Government deficit of GDP is due largely to the rise in revenue arising from a new excise on fuel products (equivalent 2.1% of GDP) which was established in true Nicodemus fashion to capture part of the windfall from the international decrease in oil prices.

The public will judge who has really been guilty of a deliberate attempt to deceive us, or who has failed to do proper homework and from whom the apology is properly due."

How PNP Government Would Treat IMF

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Apr 87 p 2

[Text]

PNP's spokesman on finance Mr. Seymour Mullings said that a PNP-elected government will honour agreements honorably entered into by the Government of Jamaica and the International Monetary Fund, but that after taking office, this agreement would have to be re-negotiated so that the unhealthy features can be changed.

Stating the PNP's position on the IMF while addressing a regional conference of the National Workers' Union at the Americana Hotel on Saturday, Mr. Mullings said "we have been saying we do not know when we will be coming into office. We say that more than likely there will be an IMF agreement in place which would have been negotiated by the present Government. Obviously, this agreement was entered into honourably by the Government of Jamaica and the IMF."

As a responsible Government we ~~would have to honour it~~, but, in honouring such an agreement, "a certain amount of things would have to take place. The government would have to look at the unhealthy features of this agreement; enter into immediate negotiation with the fund to get amendment or alteration of modification to these unhealthy features.

"It would be irresponsible of us the moment we take office to take this agreement and tear it up. It does not work that way and this is

simply what Michael Manley was expressing in Washington that we would honour the agreement; but at least we would go into negotiation and get the unhappy features changed."

Continuing, Mr. Mullings said and very importantly, in dealing with the fund "we would not maintain an air of secrecy but we would seek to inform the Jamaican people at all times about what agreements we are putting in place for the Jamaican people. It is very dishonest for any one to say Michael Manley agrees with the ten percent wage guideline."

Noting that the ten percent wage guidelines was one of the unhealthy features of the current IMF agreement, Mr. Mullings said that this agreement is demotivating to workers as it limits them to a ten percent increase in wages in a situation where most workers are looking for increases in excess of 100% in order to be able to cope with demands.

Stating that although Government had proposed to reduce inflation to seven percent so that workers can be three percent better off, he said that this would not make the workers any better off as the rate of inflation had moved by 90% over the last four years while the rate of earnings had moved by only 50%; so workers are 40% worse off.

He said that while good worker-management relationship is good

for any business, nothing motivates the worker more than when his pay package can properly take care of himself, his family and his legitimate business.

The PNP's Vice-President argued that the working class people cannot bear any more sacrifices as they are the only class of people in this country who are called upon to bear so much pressure, and he said that he will give his support to the worker to ensure that they do not bear this undue sacrifice which they have been asked to bear in this agreement.

Another unhealthy feature of the IMF agreement, Mr. Mullings said, was the way it relates to the manufacturing sector, claiming that the agreement spelled death for this sector, which people looked to mostly for creating jobs. The IMF agreement was implying that there would be less production. He asked how could government say the package is good when there was not one single word about increased production.

Commenting further on the agreement he said "we are deeply

worried about a lot of things; we believe that inside the package there are seeds of its own destruction." If we encourage our people to import too much there will be the time when devaluation will become inevitable. The oil price has given us a little ease but we have got to be very very careful.

In relation to the stabilization of the exchange rate at \$15.50 for US\$1 dollar Mr. Mullings said that no amount of praise is due to Government as this had been made possible by a number of inevitable factors such as savings on oil importation. He also said that to say that Government has been able to improve our balance of payment would not be a correct statement.

The PNP's Vice-President said that we are now saving some \$150 million annually on our import bill as a result of the drop in the price of oil and that this savings coupled with increased revenue from tourism business had contributed to the improvement in the balance of payments. He warned that any movement in the opposite direction at this time can produce serious negative effects on the economy.

/9274

CSO: 3298/209

PNP CONTINUES PUSH FOR ELECTIONS, GOES ON POLL 'ALERT'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 Apr 87 pp 1, 3

[Article by Franklin McKnight]

[Text] Chairman of the People's National Party (PNP) Mr P. J. Patterson, says the PNP will continue to call for elections now inspite of the illness of the Party's President, Mr Michael Manley, and that the Party is placing itself "on full alert" in the event that elections are called anytime now.

But Prime Minister Edward Seaga has repeated that he will decide when elections are to be called and he was not going to respond to the PNP's agenda for calling for elections.

The Prime Minister was responding to questions from the **Gleaner** about whether the Government was likely to call elections while PNP President Michael Manley was ill and in view of the People's National Party's decision to continue calling for a new poll.

Mr. Patterson, speaking to the **Gleaner** Wednesday, said the PNP's call for elections was still valid and the Party would continue to make the call for the Government to go, and seek a fresh mandate from the people. He said the "Election Now" meetings which the PNP had been holding since February would continue over the first three Sundays of May, with meetings in Morant Bay, Spanish Town and May Pen.

Mr. Patterson said that the call by his Party for "Elections Now" was being made even though the enumeration exercise is underway

because the Party had taken the position that the exercise need not be complete for elections to be held and given the fact that the last exercise was last April, the voters list was far more current than it was when Mr. Seaga called the snap elections in December 1983, which the PNP did not contest. He said the PNP would not tolerate further excuses being made about why elections could not be called.

Prime Minister Seaga, in responding to the **Gleaner's** query about whether he ruled out the calling of elections between now and August, when Mr. Manley is expected to return to active politics, said "I will decide when elections are to be called in keeping with the constitutional requirements and taking fully into account the real needs of the people."

The Prime Minister, who spoke

through an aide, said the people of Jamaica were "more concerned at this time about economic recovery rather than political matters... political matters which were in the forefront in the past are now in the background. The Government has charted its own course from the beginning and it (Government) is not devising strategies as a reaction to the PNP's priorities."

Prime Minister Seaga said there was now "strong evidence" that the economic recovery programme is providing more opportunities for many and the stage had been reached where "urgent social problems can be dealt with."

Representatives of the JLP and PNP are continuing to meet to hammer out a code of ethics, to be approved by the Party leaders, aimed at minimizing violence and tension when the next elections are called.

/9274

CSO: 3298/209

COLUMNIST CARL STONE ANALYZES SEAGA, MANLEY PERSONALITIES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 Apr 87 p 6

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text]

AS A COLUMNIST and academic political scientist, I try to avoid getting into political arguments, especially when they involve value judgements about political personalities. But Mr. Troy Caine's letter to the Editor, Monday last forces me to do just that.

Caine tries to remind me that Michael Manley is no longer MP and that it is wrong to credit him with 20 years of political representation going back to 1967 when he started in Central Kingston. He also goes on to suggest that my attribution of intellectual brilliance to Norman Manley applies to his legal career and not his political career, citing Manley's defeat in the Federation Referendum and in the 1944 elections by "an obscure political unknown" to support his case. He concludes by rating our Prime Minister Mr. Seaga as a great political performer, suggesting that the attribute intellectual brilliance more properly applies to Edward Seaga.

Let me start first with Norman Manley as I think that what most upset Caine was my suggestion that Seaga does not have the intellectual brilliance of Norman Manley.

Now there is a world of difference between a hard working competent leader who tries constantly to get the job done and a brilliant mind that is a whole generation ahead of his time. Seaga is the former and Norman Manley was the latter.

Norman Manley was not just a brilliant barrister who helped guide our constitutional development, as Caine suggests.

At a time when this country was politically backward and most politicians (including Bustamante) were comfortable with colonialism, Norman Manley's visionary nationalism put the issues of self-government, control of the executive by elected leaders and universal adult suffrage on the political agenda.

He was the driving force behind our Independence movement and his ideas on nationhood moulded and shaped the thinking of a whole generation of contemporary and younger Jamaicans between the 1940s and Independence. A whole generation of artists, intellectuals, politicians, lawyers, teachers, civil servants and national leaders were shaped and influenced by Manley's profound intellect.

Manley was never a clever politician. He was bright enough to be, as evidenced by his cleverness in the courtroom. But he was too much of a gentleman, a statesman and a firm believer in principle to adopt the unscrupulous opportunism and calculating deceptions and dishonesty that are part of the bag of tricks of some of the more successful politicians (past and present).

Divided

Manley was challenged by Bustamante on the issue of Federation. It was D.C. Tavares and not Manley who authored the idea of a Federation Referendum. The country was sharply divided on the issue. Manley's own party was also divided.

His belief in democracy and the need for organic national unity on fundamental questions led him to come around to accept the referendum idea after he himself began to

develop some doubts about Jamaica being able to get the kind of Federation he thought was compatible with our sovereignty. He put the issue to the people, knowing full well the dangers it implied, especially after his party had lost the Federal Elections.

There is no way clever politicians like Bustamante or Seaga would have taken that route and thereby risk political power for democracy.

For Calne to suggest that Manley's support for Federation contradicted his advocacy of self-government is patently absurd. Part of his fight with Eric Williams was precisely about securing a weak federal centre that would not impinge on our sovereignty.

Busta's suggestion that Manley was selling out Jamaica to the small islands was astute politics and very clever but it was the kind of opportunist political like that Manley could never utter. No wonder he was not as successful as others politically.

Manley's support for West Indian nationalism was ahead of his time, but it is instructive that after pulling out of the Federation Jamaica rushed back into Carifta and Caricom and reaped considerable economic benefits from Caribbean economic integration.

The PNP was a weak party in 1944. They were not only beaten by the JLP in the election but also by the Independent candidates most of whom had no national stature but who got more votes than the PNP. The PNP's political message was ahead of the peoples political consciousness at that time.

Busta was the popular figure but Norman Manley more than any other person was most influential in shaping the tone, character and texture of political democracy, public management, patriotism and constitutional change in modern Jamaica.

Manley was not just a politician, he was a visionary. He was sharply criticised in the 1950's for laying down expensive roads in the Negril area. He saw the tourist potential of the area. His critics did not. The JLP followed Manley into a commitment to self-government.

Between 1955 and 1962 Manley

guided, presided over and helped to fashion the public sector institutions (Central Bank, Cabinet Government etc.) the major economic and social policies and the broad framework of long term national development policies which have guided post-Independence Jamaica.

Indeed, in many respects it was Manley's policy framework that laid the foundation for most of the policies carried out by the JLP between 1962 and 1972.

Accepted defeat

The PNP under Norman Manley has been the only party in this country that has consistently accepted electoral defeat gracefully. When Busta lost in 1955 he abused the Jamaican people for being ungrateful to him and his party. When Michael's PNP lost in 1980, D.K. Duncan issued a long rambling statement claiming electoral fraud. Seaga has consistently rejected electoral defeats in 1976 and again in 1986 when hysterical claims about bogus voting.

Norman Manley stands head and shoulders over all our politicians in having deeply respected the people's will.

Norman Manley's personal integrity is legendary. He entered politics as a well-off professional and left after 30 years of active public life a poor man who was worried about money.

None other than Ulric Simmonds carried a story years ago when he was the *Gleaner's* political reporter of Norman Manley's refusal to gain power by trickery when 5 members of the House (JLP and Independents) offered to join the PNP and give Manley a parliamentary majority over Busta if they were given ministerial posts.

It is ironic that Seaga should have made his early impact on Jamaican politics by attacking Norman Manley's economic policies for allegedly increasing income inequality. Since the 1940s no other government has presided over the degree and extent of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer than the present government of Mr. Edward Seaga.

Calne is right, however. Norman Manley was not a clever politician

like Seaga or Busta. He was a great man. Seaga has some creditable achievements in his political career but he cannot measure up to a giant like Norman Manley in either intellect or impact on Jamaica's development.

The circumstances under which Mr. Seaga called that December 15, 1983 election represent a low blow to the edifice of Jamaican democracy that was so painstakingly nurtured and built by past leaders like Norman Manley. It represented political opportunism of the worst sort.

Even the late Justice Parnell who is not known for pro-PNP views condemned the election decision as violating basic norms and traditions governing the reasonable time period allowed for opposition parties to prepare for elections in decent parliamentary systems.

Mr. Seaga saw that the Stone Polls were indicating a shift to the JLP due to reactions towards the Bishop assassination in Grenada and the popular support for the Grenada invasion. He jumped at the opportunity to call a snap election knowing that Manley was out of the country. He allowed virtually no time for the PNP to get ready.

Many in the PNP wanted to contest the election regardless. Manley refused to on grounds of principle, not opportunism. A cunning and clever politician like Bustamante would have accepted Seaga's challenge and used the election issue to win. In my opinion the PNP could have won that election by that strategy. But Michael took a leaf out of Norman Manley's book.

The people of Central Kingston still regard Michael Manley as being their representative. In spite of the legal situation, Michael Manley can legitimately celebrate 20 years as a representative of the people as he is still doing precisely that, although he is not in the parliament.

Michael Manley should also be celebrating 35 (not 25) years in public life both as the country's leading trade unionist (1952-1972) and as its most popular political leader (1972-87).

SEAGA REPORTS ON ADVANCES IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Export Increases

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 Apr 87 p 20

[Text] The Agricultural Sector has been responding well to structural adjustment, with "promising results in improved foreign exchange earnings," Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga said on Thursday, as he opened debate on the 1987-88 Estimates of Expenditure in the House of Representatives.

Export earnings increased by US\$22 million (J\$121 million) last year to reach US\$108 million (J\$594 million) compared to US\$86 million (J\$473 million) in 1985-86, the Prime Minister said.

Major improvements were noted in bananas, citrus, tubers (particularly Yellow yam) and cut flowers. He said there had been a remarkable change of attitude in regard to export agriculture over the past four years.

Firstly, there is greater recognition and acceptance of commercial management and high technology in export agriculture today. The days of untrained management running the multi-million dollar sugar industry into bankruptcy, as happened in the 1970s are over. The sugar industry today is now properly managed and is demonstrating its viability, turning from losses to profits.

"Similarly, banana production is now far more scientific and showing improved output," Mr. Seaga told the House in his two hours and 50 minutes presentation.

He said that Agro 21 had been the major force in the turn-around of attitudes. And he explained that Agro 21 was not involved in direct investment in agriculture, but was a promotional agency encouraging the commercial and technically sound use of land, "concepts which have traditionally not been in the forefront of thinking in major agricultural enterprises."

Successes, Disappointments

Noting that there had been successes and disappointments, the Prime Minister said "there is a costly learning curve in anything new, and learning means that we benefit from mistakes and go on to make improvements."

The Prime Minister said that financing and borrowings had never been greater, with the Agricultural Credit Bank lending \$92 million last year at 15 to 18 percent rate of interest. This availability of financing helped to increase the number of new investments in agriculture to 217 over the past six years, with a projected capital investment of \$700 million.

He added that much more land was now in production with Agro 21 negotiating privatisation by leasehold, of 30,000 acres of Government-owned land for commercial production. Only 14,000 acres in two major blocs in Clarendon and St. Catherine suitable for commercial production remain to be disposed of, he said.

In addition the Ministry of Agriculture has divested 45,000 acres by sale to small farmers, leaving only 25,000 acres of Government-owned land to be divested. This will be done in the next two years, said the PM.

The Prime Minister went on to say that of the 200,000 acres of Government owned land capable of production on a commercial scale which were unused or under-used when Agro 21 was established, 150,000 acres have become productive or being put into production.

He noted, however, that some acreage had been made productive on the basis of plans made prior to the establishment of Agro 21.

Foreign Exchange earnings since the advent of Agro 21 had increased by an average of US\$21 million (J\$115.5 million) and new employment created by 9,000 jobs, the Prime Minister said.

Crop Self-Sufficiency

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 Apr 87 p 20

[Text]

JAMAICA IS ON THE WAY to being self-sufficient in four of the six products identified by the Government through Agro 21, Prime Minister Edward Seaga said Thursday evening as he opened the debate on the 1987-88 Estimates of Expenditure.

The crops involved in 1985 were rice, corn, soya, fish, milk and meat. According to Mr. Seaga rice production has now been committed to 7,000 acres of the 10,000 acres targeted. He said 2,500 acres of rice are now in production.

"The large-scale cultivation of corn was tried by the Ministry of Agriculture with small farmers, but the cost of production proved uneconomic.

"Soya must be grown on large-scale farms, but there has been little response by big farmers, who prefer to stick with better paying traditional crops.

"Fresh water cultivation of fish has expanded ten-fold over three years, from 324,000 pounds to 3,500,000 pounds, with further expansion to come," the Prime Minister said.

He said that milk production which increased by 13 percent

over 1985, was now set for significant further increase as a result of the new pricing policy, and, beef production increased by 24 percent last year, and poultry by 40 percent, "indicating that meat production already nearly self-sufficient, is expanding to meet full self-sufficiency.

● "As a consequence of recent developments, there is no longer any doubt about Jamaica's ability to produce new quality products on a commercial scale, rather than in sample quantities, using modern technology and shipping those products in good condition to foreign markets," Mr. Seaga said.

/13066

CSO: 3298/214

OPPOSITION FORCES RESPOND TO, CRITICIZE SEAGA BUDGET

Initial PNP Reaction

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 Apr 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

IN A FIRST REACTION to the Budget presentation in Parliament PNP Chairman Mr. P.J. Patterson said yesterday it was "pure samfle" as Mr. Seaga had once again issued "a sheaf of promissory notes that he cannot redeem."

In a statement Mr. Patterson said that for the past six years, Mr. Seaga had reduced the whole Budget exercise to total farce.

"After three hours of fantasy, the country is none the wiser how the Budget will be financed or how we hope to close the trade deficit in order to reduce the foreign exchange gap," he said.

He went on: "Every year, the Prime Minister announces a huge Budget with impressive plans for capital investment. Even before the ink is dry and the numbers are being approved in Parliament, he proceeds to reduce the allocations without informing the country until the fiscal year is almost over. Nothing different is expected this year."

There are clear indications that much of the Budget conflicts with the commitments given to the IMF. The IMF agreement requires expenditure to decline by 1.4 percentage points of G.D.P., reflecting reduction in both current and capital outlays in real terms. This guideline would prohibit a Budget in excess of \$6,500 million.

There can be no faith in a Budget which anticipates \$1,100 million of the \$1,825 million for capital projects to come from foreign sources.

There can be no faith in a Budget, intended to restore life to the social services, which provides for little increase of current expenditure when compared with the final figures for last year and in effect constitutes a decrease in real terms.

Mr. Seaga was forced to acknowledge that a major source of revenue will come from monies derived from the sale of assets created or acquired by the PNP. He proposes to sell virtually everything on which he can lay his hands: the Cement Company, J.B.C., portions of JAMINTEL, RJR, and our Hotels. There will be nothing left in the cupboards when a new Administration comes to office to pay off the foreign debts he has rescheduled and to replace earnings from the forward selling of our bauxite resources and alumina production.

At the same time he proposes to purchase ALCOA. This is a major departure for a supposed disciple of Free Enterprise. He has been forced belatedly to recognise that there exists certain critical areas of economic development in which the public sector must be involved. This concept he had bitterly denounced in Opposition years.

He now professes ideological fervour for worker participation. We will be watching closely to ensure that this sudden conversion is reflected by action.

The People's National Party notes that Mr. Seaga has followed our lead in accepting the need for a new television station. We insist that the terms of the proposed franchise permit free dialogue and enrich our cultural diversity.

We also note that he has yielded to the demands of the Party and manufacturers, to scrap the cumbersome S.G.S. system.

Once again, selective statistics have been used to justify a boast of economic growth which only a few persons feel or enjoy. His presentation continues to reveal inconsistency in economic policies. It will not be long before he changes them again when the consequences of ignoring certain aspects of the IMF agreement become evident.

The country is convinced that a new direction is necessary if ever we are to see the light. The only glimmer of hope comes from the expectation that Mr. Seaga has presented his last Budget to Parliament."

Workers Party Critique

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Apr 87 p 8

[Letter to the Editor]

[Text]

THE EDITOR Sir:

The Worker's Party of Jamaica (WPJ) feels that the government is once again exaggerating, for political effect, the level of expenditure which will be made in real terms in the areas of health, education and other social services.

The WPJ feels that if the government keeps up its pretence at restraining inflation at a seven per cent level, it is more unlikely that the proposed widescale refurbishing of schools, hospitals, roads and water supply will take place. The government is, however, presenting this human face not out of concern for the condition of the ordinary people, but in an attempt to secure popular support at the polls in the forthcoming elections.

In responding to Prime Minister Edward Seaga's budget presentation in Parliament, the Workers Party says that the government has been unable to provide the lower levels of subvention to existing hospitals and schools over several

years. The Party therefore questions what was the real basis to expect that the newly announced upgraded allocations would in fact be paid over.

It has become traditional for Mr. Seaga to present unrealistic and inflated capital budgets which are then substantially reduced in the less publicised supplementary estimates, in response to IMF demands.

In the area of bauxite, government's intended full take over of ALCOA, the struggle and sharp exchanges with ALCAN and the prevailing difficulties with Kaiser once again indicate that the country cannot rely on the unpredictable behaviour of multi-national corporations.

Mr. Seaga's current course of greater state involvement in the Bauxite sector is a vindication of the WPJ's view that the public sector needs to play a leading role in national economic development. The continued stable trading relations with the Soviet Union further demonstrates that diversification of trade is not simply a matter of ideology

but one of basic economic survival.

Mr. Seaga's persistent optimism is not shared by the majority of Jamaican people who have endured six long years of the most severe social and economic deprivation. Such optimism is likely to find greater support among the bankers, big businessmen, large-scale distributors and foreign investors who have directly benefited and to whom the government's policies and programmes are geared.

The WPJ proposes that in light of government's promises, all school boards, parent teachers' associations, hospital boards and workers in these institutions — together with citizens associations and national professional organizations — should closely monitor delivery of the proposed upgraded subventions and publicly demand that the Seaga regime deliver on its budget undertakings.

I am etc.

LAMBERT BROWN
Publications Secretary,
Workers Party of Jamaica.

/13046

CSO: 3298/214

PNP ASSAILS SEAGA'S BUDGET: NOT IN LINE WITH IMF ACCORD

Port.of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 26 Apr 87 p 18

[Text]

KINGSTON, Saturday (CANA) — The Jamaican opposition People's National Party (PNP) has accused government of trickery, saying its J\$6.9 billion budget is not in line with an International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement.

Party chairman Percival Patterson said in a statement that there were clear indications much of the budget conflicted with commitments Prime Minister Edward Seaga gave to the fund under a recent US\$138.2 million agreement.

He said the Fund required expenditure to decline by 1.4 percentage points of gross national product "reflecting reductions in both current and capital outlays in real terms."

This guideline would prohibit a budget in excess of J\$6.5 billion.

"It is pure samfie (a Jamaican word meaning trickery). Mr Seaga has reduced the whole budget exercise to a total farce," Patterson remarked.

Seaga on Thursday night announced details of his 1987-88 budget to be financed by borrowing \$8.9 billion and raising \$1.4 billion in revenue.

Seaga said \$1.8 billion would be used to finance a capital development programme.

The PNP chairman added: "There can be no faith in a budget, intended to restore life to social services, which provides for little increase of current expenditure."

/9274

CSO: 3298/209

SEAGA, IN BUDGET DEBATE, CITES GAINS FROM PRIVATIZATION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Apr 87 p 24

[Text] THE JAMAICAN Government has so far garnered \$236.5 million from the privatisation of public assets, Prime Minister Edward Seaga told Parliament last Thursday evening as he opened the debate on the 1987-88 Estimates of Expenditure.

It received \$61 million annually from lease and rentals, and saves \$55.5 million in lieu of losses. It also took in \$120 million from the sale of assets.

Mr. Seaga said that the main thrust of further privatisation will be the divestment programme this year. This will include the Caribbean Cement Company, the broadcasting media, 20 per cent of the newly formed holding company for Jamaica Telephone Company and JamIntel, and all except two of the Government owned hotels.

At a press briefing at Jamaica House last Friday, Mr. Seaga said that the two hotels that would not now be divested were Oceana Hotel and Casa Monte. These would continue under National Hotels and Properties Limited. He said that the same team headed by Mr. Oliver Clarke, which handled the leasing of the hotels in the past would be the one to handle the divestment programme of the hotels.

The Caribbean Cement Company, the Prime Minister said in his Budget speech, was in the process of completing its expansion programme which would double its

capacity. There would then be increased production to allow for export to North America.

Mr. Seaga said that 10 per cent of the shares to be offered would be sold to the Norwegian Company Norcem, which, in addition to giving technical assistance to Caribbean Cement Company (CCC) over the years, has North American markets.

"Government will be taking over the foreign debts of CCC in exchange for the equivalent local debt to enable CCC to avoid exchange rate risks. The profitability projections of the company are very encouraging. As in the case of the NCB (National Commercial Bank) divestment, a limit will be placed on subscription by any single individual or corporation, in this case 10 per cent, and worker participation will be encouraged by a special offering of shares," Mr. Seaga said.

He then dealt with divestment of the broadcasting media, details of which appear elsewhere in this newspaper.

Further, he said that a holding company had been established for the Jamaica Telephone Company and JamIntel. Cable and Wireless of the United Kingdom, "which has been associated with Jamaica for many decades, has owned 49 per cent of JamIntel shares for many years. In the new structure, this 49 per cent share will be exchanged for 20 per cent in the holding company with a payment of \$102.5 million by Cable and Wireless. Agreement has already been reached on this transaction," he said.

He added that by far the largest part of the programme this year would be the proposed divestment of 12 government hotels.

"The decision to divest these hotels follows on the need to improve the state of the infrastructure and service in the tourism centres. The proceeds of sales will be used to finance the overall programme of development outlined earlier for tourism. The surplus, together with proceeds from the other divestments outlined for this year, will be more than adequate to close the financing gap for this year's budgeted expenditure. Any surplus, over and above these requirements, will be set aside for the expenditure programme next year," the Prime Minister said.

At the press briefing, he said that the shares of the Cement Company would be marketed in June while the hotels would be divested in May.

The Prime Minister emphasised that the divestment programme was confined to assets where public ownership was not essential to their continued development. This, he said, was in contrast with the acquisition of the Alcoa plant in which public ownership was of great significance to its continued development.

/13046

CSO: 3298/214

JLP DENIES ASSISTANCE TO UWP IN ST LUCIA ELECTION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Apr 87 p 1

[Text]

THE Jamaica Labour Party last night denied an accusation of interference in St. Lucia General Election campaign by way of assisting the ruling United Workers Party of Prime Minister John Compton.

The charge of interference came from the opposition St. Lucia Labour Party whose leader Julian Hunte told reporters in Castries yesterday that representatives from the ruling parties in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica and Dominica were seen assisting the UWP in the campaign.

Contacted at Gordon House last night, JLP General Secretary Ryan Peralto denied the charges as they affect the JLP. He said that as a member of the Caribbean Democratic Union (CDU) the UWP shared fraternal relations with the JLP; but there was no official participation in the St. Lucian campaign.

He said later: "I have been advised that staff members of the C.D.U. are in St. Lucia assisting Mr. Compton's party which is a member of the C.D.U. as is the J.L.P."

The election campaign winds up tomorrow with the second general election in a month set to take place Thursday. The first on April 6 gave the UWP only a one-seat majority which Compton is seeking to improve with a more comfortable working majority in the 17-seat Parliament.

Following is a Cana dispatch on the latest development:

CASTRIES, St Lucia, April 28, Cana
Leader of St. Lucia Labour Party Julian Hunte today accused St Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica, and Dominica of assisting the ruling

United Workers Party in the current general election campaign.

"Right now as we understand it, the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) is engaged with the John Compton government and the UWP in planning for the election on Thursday," Hunte told reporters.

He made the same accusation against the Eugenia Charles administration in Dominica and the James Mitchell government in Kingstown saying that representatives of the ruling parties in the three islands have been seen publicly assisting the UWP.

It is the second occasion that the SLP leader has accused Mitchell and Charles of "blatant interference" in the election process.

Hunte had earlier said that they had influenced Compton into seeking a fresh mandate from the voters following the one-seat UWP majority on April 6.

In reaction today, Compton denied the charges.

"In the OECS, no government tries to interfere in the internal affairs of another. That is one rule we respect and whatever my relationship with the two Prime Ministers may be, that had no influence in my decision which was really based on what is best for St Lucia at this time.

"One thing we are proud of since we have had elections in St Lucia is that nobody can touch us for the integrity of our election process. We want to come home with a clean slate," Compton said in response to charges of fraud.

First ballots in the election were cast today by policemen to free them for security duties Thursday.

COLUMNIST DISCUSSES POLITICAL PROSPECTS OF JLP, PNP

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Apr 87 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone (with editor's note)]

[Text]

ONE OF THE interesting characteristics of the major political parties in Jamaica is their incredible faith and confidence in their chances of winning elections, no matter how weak their objective political strength is. This party confidence, of course, is an asset to the two-party system as it keeps elections competitive but it is a misleading index of political reality.

I will never forget the deep confidence PNP leaders like Dr. D.K. Duncan had in that party's chances of being re-elected for a third term in 1980. Dr. Paul Robertson and Mr. Michael Manley were among the few PNP leaders who had their doubts about that third term but they did not reveal them publicly.

The JLP today expresses the same confidence in spite of the whipping its candidates received in the 1986 Local Government elections after the Prime Minister and the entire Cabinet got fully into the campaign as if it was a General Election.

Underlying Mr. Seaga's quiet confidence is the feeling that if he can sustain the positive growth trends of 1986, he might just pull off a first by getting re-elected for a third term. It is perhaps instructive to look back at past political trends to get a feel for the prospects of this occurring.

The JLP established a massive 18% majority in votes over the PNP in 1944. The majority was not like the big 18% JLP popular vote majority in 1980. But by 1949 the PNP erased the JLP vote majority in the

short period of 5 years, establishing a small 0.8% majority, although the JLP got more seats.

The PNP surged ahead again in popular votes in 1955 with an 11% majority over the JLP. All this was taking place during a period of unprecedented economic growth in Jamaica. Between 1950 and 1955 when the PNP was swept to power from opposition by a landslide, real growth in the Jamaican economy was respectively 8%, 8%, 12%, 11%, 11%, and 10%. It was the period of most rapid growth in the country's twentieth century history and represented the highest rate of real economic growth in the region. Yet the PNP wiped out Busta completely in 1955. No wonder he got angry and accused the people of being ungrateful.

Economic growth, popularity

After the PNP victory in 1955, the party increased its popular vote strength in 1959 by some 5%. The PNP majority slipped between 1959 and 1962 after the party lost in the 1961 Referendum over the Federation and the JLP won with a slender 0.45% popular vote majority.

Although growth levels had fallen somewhat since the early 1950s real growth of the Jamaican economy between 1955 when the PNP came to power and 1962 when it lost the election was 4.75% which is quite high. Unemployment had significantly dropped also from 17% to 13%. Real personal expenditure or purchasing power had also grown by some 18%. The economic indicators were positive yet the PNP lost.

The JLP held on to its slender thin vote majority between 1962 and 1967 but was wiped out by the

PNP in 1972 when the latter party established a 13% popular vote majority. The economic growth trends were still positive. Between 1965 and 1970 real growth was 5.1% compared to a slower 3.7% between 1960 and 1965. Yet the JLP was thrown out of power.

One of the problems, of course, is that these macro-economic indicators often give a misleading picture of what is happening to the people.

In the decade of the 1960s when impressive growth was being recorded in the economy unemployment rose from 13% to over 24% by 1972.

Another way of looking at the issue therefore is to assess the misery levels of the population at the time of the elections by computing a misery index. This is done by adding together unemployment and inflation levels and adding the percentage decline in purchasing power or subtracting the percentage growth in purchasing power.

In 1955 when the PNP was swept into power the misery index was a low 14% compared to the much higher misery indices of 1949 (28%) and 1944 (45%). The misery index had declined under the JLP meaning that life was getting better for the masses yet the PNP experienced an extraordinary growth of its share of the popular vote over the period as shown below.

Party vote shares.

1944	1949	1955
JLP		
41.4%	42.7%	39.0%
PNP		
23.5%	43.5%	54.8%

In the 1950's when the PNP increased its majority and was re-elected the misery index was also a low 13% in 1959. But in 1962 when the JLP was swept to power from opposition, the misery index was similarly low (15%). So there was no drastic deterioration of living standards as measured by these crude indicators yet the governing party lost.

Between 1962 and 1972, however, the misery index increased from a low 15% to a higher 24% when the PNP came to power from opposition.

In the seventies, the PNP increased its popular vote majority slightly in 1976 although the mis-

ery index had increased from 24% to a high 38% over the short four-year period. Between 1976 and 1980, the misery index climbed to an unprecedented 50% setting the stage for the JLP's return to power.

Two-year term trend

Although there were some positive macro economic growth trends in 1986, the fact is that the misery index stood at a high 32%. But one might argue that the JLP brought down the misery index from 50% to 32% between 1980 and 1986 and should therefore have been able to hold its own in that election. Instead the JLP lost in 12 of the 13 parish contests in what was a heavily fought mini-general election in which both parties gave it their all.

The result of PNP 57% and JLP 43% in what Mr. Seaga has termed as a very positive year of economic upturns does not give any reassurance at all that mere favourable economic trends give the JLP any real chance of a third term.

The fact is that when you examine past trends in voting behaviour, especially if you add Local Government voting trends, it is clear that no party in the history of this country has been able to maintain a popular vote majority after seven years in office. After seven years the political road belongs to the opposition.

Busta's popular vote majority went in five years after 1944. The PNP's vote majority went in seven years between 1955 and 1962. In the 1960s the JLP lost its popular vote majority in the 1969 Local Government elections, seven years after coming to power. Micheal's majority (according to S' ne Polls) disappeared by 1978, six years after coming to power in 1972.

Seaga's majority (according to Stone Polls) lasted only two years (1981 and 1982) only to be temporarily restored by events in Grenada at the end of 1983. Since then the PNP has been continuously ahead in the polls. The 1986 local election confirmed these poll trends.

Governing parties have always had the advantage in Local Government elections since the 1950's. Seaga's JLP is the first governing party since the 1950s to fail to get a majority of Parish Council and

KSAC seats in a local election.

Between now and the end of 1988, the misery index is not likely to fall much below where it is and it may well increase due to increased import costs pegged to the upward movement in oil prices. Wage controls guarantee that purchasing power will not move upwards to any significant degree. Some new jobs may be created but the impact is too geographically concentrated to influence the 1988 vote.

Miracle

To believe that the JLP has a good chance of re-election is to believe in miracles. Manley's illness has won him a surge of national sympathy and concern that will boost his political stocks.

The vote pattern has changed since the 1970s due to less loyal party voting and more uniform parish voting leading to bigger swings, bigger vote majorities and more seats for winning parties. The likely PNP victory in the next elections will reflect all of these new trends as did the 1986 election victory.

These voting trends make it most unlikely to have election results like 1949 with one party winning most seats and the other getting most votes. All governing parties in the past have spent large sums in periods leading up to elections but in no instance has big government spending influenced the "iron law" of the seven-year limit on majorities.

Mr. Seaga's policies produced a remarkable increase in jobs last year for which he deserves full praise but not even that kind of economic upturn can save him from the fate that awaits him. It will take quite a miracle to stop the PNP from coming back to power when the next election is called, unless Manley is unable to resume party leadership.

[At the close of his column in THE DAILY GLEANER of 4 May, page 8, Stone adds:

Due to a typographical error, my last Wednesday's column on the JLP's re-election prospects mistakenly reported the PNP as getting 54.8% of the votes in 1955 elections and the JLP as getting 39%. The JLP figure is correct but the correct PNP figure is 50.5%. Also the omission of some key words might not have made it clear to some readers that the economic growth figures cited for the 1950's and 1960's relate to average annual growth for the periods referred to.

/13046

CSO: 3298/214

OCTOBER 1985-86 JOBLESS RATE DECLINES BY OVER 3 PERCENT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Apr 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

THE unemployment rate fell from 25.6 per cent in October 1985 to 22.3 per cent in October 1986, according to the Labour Force 1986 figures put out by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica.

According to the figures the population 14 years and over decreased by 13,000 over the previous year while out-migration was 7,000 more than for the corresponding period in 1985. "Nevertheless the labour force increased by 5,000. This was mainly due to an increase of approximately 20,000 in the number of persons employed, as the level of unemployment moved down by approximately 32,000."

In October the labour force stood at 1,055,500 rising from 1,049,800 in October of the previous year. The increase was about equally divided among men and women. "However, the increase in the level of employment was biased towards women where some 22,000 found jobs as against 18,000 men. The unemployment rate for men declined from 16.1 per cent to 13.3 per cent while that for women declined from 36.6 per cent to 32.6 per cent," the figures revealed.

The document showed that in October 1986, persons in the group 25 to 34 years, the largest share among the age groups accounted for 25.3 per cent of the labour force. Between October 1985 and April 1986, there was an increase of 10,100 persons — 4,200 men and 5,900 women — but by October 1986 there was a slight decrease of approximately 1,000.

The 35 to 44 years age group also experienced a significant increase of 9,400 persons comprising of

5,100 men and 4,300 women. The oldest persons in the labour force, those 65 years and over, maintained their position as the smallest contributing group to the labour force, and over the past years their numbers have been diminishing. Within the 12-month period ending in October 1986, the group experienced the largest fall of 5,200 persons. "This fall was observed mainly among males. Within the past two years the size of the male labour force (65 years and over) declined by one fifth while the female contribution remained relatively steady."

The document noted that the number of persons looking for work in April has been lower than the preceding October. "The explanation is that with the academic year ending in August, there is a significant number of school leavers who join the labour force and are to be found among the unemployed. However, by April of the following year some of these persons would have found some form of employment or would move on to further academic pursuits and would thus have withdrawn from the labour force, thus reflecting a decline in the size of the labour force and in the number of persons 14 to 19 years in the labour force each April, when compared with the previous October. The year 1986 has maintained the trend."

On the matter of training the document noted that the labour force continued to show a "heavy bias" towards no formal training. In October 1986 persons with no formal training accounted for 84.5 of the total labour force.

Self-employed and independent workers accounted for a third of the labour force, a position held by the

group since the early 1970s. In October 1986, there were 357,400 such persons. These were to be found primarily in the agricultural, commercial and other services.

"Since late 1983, the professional, technical, administrative, executive managerial and related workers group has been on a declining trend up to April 1986. There was a slight recovery by October. The agricultural sector increased significantly in April 1985 and maintained that level until April 1986. However, there was a decline of some 13,000 persons in the six month period ending in October.

"Increases occurred in the manufacturing, commercial and other services sectors. Of these the other services sector recorded the largest increase of 20,000 persons of which women accounted for 11,000. Employed women accounted for the largest share of the increase.

/13046

CSO: 3298/214

DAMAGE FROM RAIN, FLOODING MAY RUN TO MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Apr 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Damage from torrential rain which has lashed Jamaica over the weekend will run into millions of dollars, the Government has claimed. At least one person has died as a result of the rains which continued to wreak havoc in parts of St. Catherine, Clarendon and Portland yesterday.

A Jampress report last night listed several roads in eastern St. Thomas, Portland, Clarendon and St. Catherine, which were inundated.

Gleaner teams touring the areas reported most damage in St. Catherine and Eastern Portland; and a Gleaner correspondent has reported reduced sugar-cane deliveries to the Worthy park sugar factory. Landslides have been reported in several areas and people have also been marooned in Clarendon.

And the bad weather is expected to continue today, the Meteorological Office said yesterday afternoon. The Met Office said the area of bad weather has remained stationary but weakened yesterday and "the island will therefore continue to be generally cloudy to overcast, with intermittent light to moderate rain and occasional outbursts of heavy showers" through this morning.

Dead as a result of the rains is 35-year-old Barrington Minott, a sideman, of Allman Town, Kingston 4, who was reportedly drowned in the Rio Cobre River on Sunday, April 26, when he jumped from a truck at Flat Bridge, St. Catherine.

Reports are that at about 1.30 p.m. a truck in which Minott was a passenger was in the process of crossing the bridge when the right front wheel hit a boulder and he jumped from the truck onto the bridge and was washed away.

The Spanish Town police are investigating, but according to workmen clearing the area of the incident a body has been found.

The Rio Cobre has also caused loss of crops along its banks. The road which follows the river through the gorge has also been extensively damaged in parts where the water undermined the retaining wall. There were also reports of residents abandoning their homes in areas along the river's course.

In Clarendon, a Gleaner team found several roads either impassable or very difficult to navigate because of landslides and high levels of water.

The Public Works Department in May Pen yesterday reported that the roads from Crofts Hill to Danks, Ginger Ridge to Rock River, Mocho to Frankfield Town via Thompson Town were being worked on. This work was expected to result in the clearing of roads by late yesterday evening.

Mr. Dobson De Silva, president of the Hayes Citizens Association, said there was inconvenience among many residents of the area whose roofs were leaking.

A correspondent reported that residents of Pumpkin district in northeast Clarendon have been left marooned following heavy weekend rains. The rains swelled the Rio Minho which flowed through the district and the river undermined the foundations of the Pumpkin bridge.

The bridge which was first damaged in last year June flood rains can not now be used.

Residents in Redlands, Bryan's Hill and surrounding areas are unable to get their crops to the market because there is no bridge. Supplies are said to be running low in shops, and residents are having difficulty crossing the Rio Minho River to go about their business.

Four persons have died in the districts and have not been buried because of the lack of a bridge.

Residents told this correspondent that the Member of Parliament, Hon J.A.G. Smith, has promised to help them by making a make-shift bridge built, but nothing has been done.

Councillor Luson Bartley, of the Aenon Town division, toured the areas where flooding was reported and saw the problems that the residents were faced with.

Elsewhere, the Gleaner's correspondent in Worthy Park reported that six inches of rain fell in Worthy Park yesterday, causing damages to cane roads in St. Catherine and north Clarendon.

The Pusey, Kentish, Lemon Hall, Ewarton to Worthy Park roads are all badly damaged. Motorists are advised to be cautious when travelling on the Ewarton to Worthy Park main road. Also damaged are roads leading off the Crofts Hill and Kel-lits main road.

Mr. Robert Clarke, managing director of Worthy Park Sugar Estate, told this correspondent that the damage caused to these roads has made it impossible to reach the sugar target set for the factory this year, as farmers are facing additional difficulty in getting their cane to the factory.

At United Estate in Bog Walk, the reaping of cane has been greatly affected due to the heavy rains, and the estate sent only 33% of its normal daily output to Worthy Park.

The correspondent also reported that two residents of Knolls Housing Scheme in Bog Walk, St. Catherine, had to vacate their homes because of rising water. The Bog Walk to Knolls main road has been blocked by landslides and debris.

The Gleaner's team which toured the eastern parishes said that in east Portland, families had to evacuate at least a dozen homes which were flooded out. Homes and business place were partly washed away by swollen gullies, and several roads were blocked.

There were also reports of heavy loss of livestock and cultivation caused by flood waters.

Water over four feet deep which covered the Long Bay Main road over the weekend was receding yesterday, making the road usable for the first time in four days. At least four houses on the main road were evacuated.

Cultivations on the flatlands were also flooded, as rain waters rushed down from surrounding hills.

Citizens reported the loss of livestock and chicken during the rains. In the Rio Grande Valley, there were reports too that crops were under water.

The police reported that in an area adjoining Manchioneal water had washed through six houses but residents who had been evacuated had now returned home.

Seaside School and Manchioneal All-Age School in the area had no classes yesterday. The Public Works Department in Port Antonio reported several roads blocked by landslips, some of which they had managed to reopen.

At Millbank, between mileposts 12 to 15, three landslips blocking the road were expected to be cleared by today. On Reach Road, from Muirton to Ecclesdon, three areas were also blocked between mileposts 10 to 11.

The Haining/Williamsfield Road was also blocked by fallen trees, but should be cleared by today. At Comfort Castle in the Millbank area, a gully in spate swept away part of a house and shop. The occupants managed to escape the waters.

The PWD also reported that other roads were partially blocked by landslips and fallen trees, and road surfaces scoured by the rains.

BRIEFS

DROUGHT LOSSES--Kingston, 23 Apr (CANA)--A drought affecting Jamaica has intensified, with some farmers in the eastern Parish of St Thomas losing crops valued at millions of dollars and having to abandon holdings, the GLENAER reported today. Among the hardest-hit area is the usually fertile Yallas Valley, where residents say the river has sunken to its lowest level in decades. In the valley, 60 acres of two-acre farms, owned by individual farmers growing papaya, gunjo peas, lettuce and other vegetables, had been lost, the GLEANER said. Several other farmers in the Yallas Valley have abandoned their crops, while others have had to cut back on production, according to the paper. The drought is an exaggeration of the island's annual dry season. Recently, a Government survey into the effects of the drought found that 10,000 acres of food crops in the island had been seriously affected, most of them in central and western parishes. The farmers in these areas said there was also a threat to livestock, as fodder was also drying up. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Apr 87 p 5] /9274

NIGERIAN DELEGATION--A 20-man delegation of Nigerian businessmen is in Jamaica discussing investment prospects in aviation and manufacturing. The delegation is headed up by a tribal chief from the country of Benin, which borders Niberia on the west. [Text] [Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 Apr 87 FL] /9274

CSO. 3298/209

CULIACAN 'WHITE GUARDS' LEGALLY REGISTERED

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 545 13 Apr 87 pp14-17

[Article by Luz Aida Salomon and Ignacio Ramirez: "The White Guards of Sinaloa Registered in IX Military Zone"]

[Text] Culiacan, Sinaloa--In a move that has no precedent in the country, General Rodolfo Reta Trigos registered the so-called White Guards of each of the 35 agricultural areas of the Valley of Culiacan in the III Military Region of the IX Military Zone, with headquarters in this city, for the purpose of giving legality to the farmers security agents, whose reputation as thugs and killers has raised a wave of protests throughout the length and breadth of the territory of Sinaloa.

Registration is a two-edged sword

While it is true that there is now an alleged control of the "White Guards," --who even carry regulation militia submachineguns, as was confirmed by reporters in a tour through the agricultural areas--it is also true that their "legality" is up in the air. They cannot be grouped into an auxiliary police body, as was said at first, because they would be violating the law as established by local and federal constitutions. The only solution, perhaps, would be to incorporate their personnel as legal agents or preventive police, but no one here accepts that solution because of the lack of moral qualities of these guards hired by the landowners.

Faced with this situation, the commander of the IX Zone, General Reta Trigos, throws the ball to Governor Francisco Labastida Ochea. It will be he, he said, who should establish the system under which this security group should be authorized.

Meanwhile, the deputies of the Sinaloa Popular Movement (MPS) headed by Ramon Rodrigo Lopez Zavala, who revealed the case in the local congress, are preparing a document they will soon deliver to the governor, describing the situation.

[Box, p 14]

Ignacio Ramirez: Sinaloa Security Coordination Reestablishes Checkpoints, Searches and Urban Patrols.

Culiacan, Sinaloa--With a view to fighting violence in Sinaloa, the government put into action the State Public Security Coordination forces consisting of 2,000 policemen, including Judicial, Preventive and Traffic Police. They will operate permanently and may request the help of Federal Agencies if considered necessary.

Announcing the foregoing in recent days, Attorney General Manuel Lazcano Ochoa also revealed the reinstallation of check points, searches and intensified patrolling in the streets of Culiacan, Mazatlan and Los Mochis, as well as campaigns against the carrying of weapons, in coordination with the army. (In the previous 3 months to the end of February, 52,999 weapons had been registered, it was reported by the chief of staff, Cavalry Colonel DEM Adrian Maldonado Ramirez).

Lazcano Ochoa took the protest to the new chief of Judicial Police of the state, Arturo Moreno Espinoza, former agent of the Federal Security Directorate, who is accused by the Human Rights Commission of having been a member of the "El Gringo" group, materially responsible for the urban war in the 70's that left 43 persons dead. Moreno Espinoza replaced Attorney Fernando Garcia Felix, who was appointed State Coordinator of Public Security.

Pursuant to the new Organic Law of the Attorney General's Office of Sinaloa, the coordinator will be authorized to investigate criminal actions and to seek proof of the existence of crimes and proof that will tend to determine the guilt of those who participate in them, to name and present persons for the preparation of trials and to execute the orders of presentation, arrest and investigation.

The Human Rights Commission and the parliamentary section of the MPS immediately questioned the new Organic Law of the Attorney General's Office, as well as the authority placed in the hands of the State Coordinator for Public Security. They considered some of them within the exclusive purview of the Public Prosecutor, the Judicial Police and the Prosecutor himself.

"It has no legal standing, but it will be the investigator, prosecutor and executor, everything. This returns the possibility of arresting for investigating," says the Commission.

The coalition of the left, in turn, states in a document addressed to the Commission of Constitutional Points and Government of the LII Legislature: "Mexico has undergone a black experience in the previous federal 6-year period in matters of justice. Durazo, a living example of that experience, under the pretext of coordinating the security forces, created a network of abusive holdup men, extorting, and committing the greatest crimes. Oriented by the best exercise of the functions accruing to you, in the additions to the Organic Law should be included the profile of the chief of the State Security Coordination."

The White Guards have been a part of the black history of Sinaloa. In the 30's and 40's there was a high rate of violence, to which were added private police, together with the "Cristeros" and "Charros." Specifically, their mission was that of putting an end to the agrarian movement through repression. Their methods were ambushes and attacks in public places, in bars and dance halls and public squares. At that time the White Guards were made up of bands of criminals and murderers, among them "El Culiche" and "El Gitano" at the service, in the southern part of the state, of the so-called "Group of 33," made of landowners, businessmen and tycoons. Subsequently, as of 1945, there came a certain pacification in the state and these guards passed on to a second level but remained discreetly at the service of the farmers. In the 70's, the White Guards regained a new impetus in intimidating peasants, who began to demand better wages and that their hours of work be maintained, a struggle that is being continued by the Independent Federation of Agricultural Workers and Peasants of Sinaloa (FIOACS).

Gabriel Silva, secretary general of the FIOACS, who together with Patricio Guillen Zavala and Benito Garcia and other peasant leaders have suffered the repression of these security agents, charges: "Since midway in the 70's, the most open integration of the White Guards of the farmers was begun to pit the workers against the peasants, who sought to take over the large landholdings. One of the most prosperous and well known men who did this was Engineer Hector Miguel Gonzalez Espinoza of los Montoneros, now president of the Association of Horticulturists, and his family. He has had guards since 1976, date on which the landowners also started a white union associated with the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers]. This means that they found a way of keeping that clash permanent in order to thwart the workers."

Now the White Guards are in all the areas of the Valley and in almost the entire state, where according to charges by peasant associations, the farmers exploit the day workers and accumulate land. There are fields of up to 10,000 hectares in simulated latifundia--some of them belonging to foreigners, mainly Greeks with the surnames of Stravopulos, Colocuris, Crisantes and Habermann, among others, who produce vegetables and cereals in industrial quantities. (In the past season--up to May last year--for example, since the present season has not yet ended, 26,643,451 crates of tomatoes were exported at \$8 per crate. This means more than \$200 million, not counting the production destined for the interior of the country).

The FIOACS has many facts and charges:

Among the main agricultural areas is "El Gato," the property of the Ortiz Palomares and Associates, headed by Arturo Ortiz Palomares, where a dozen White Guards, among them Arturo Ortiz, Agustin Caro Lopez and Abraham Quintero, who carry R-15 submachineguns carried only by the army; "Victoria," "San Jose," "Oaxaca" and others, owned by Alejandro Canelos, the most powerful farmer of the Culiacan Valley. He is also the owner of several companies scattered throughout the state, Baja, California and the southeast part of the country. There are the "Emilion" and "San Miguel" of the Campo Moroleon Company owned by the Greek, Trifonas Stravopulos; "El Tigre," "Silvia" and "Pamela," owned by the Jose Luis Escobar e Hijos

Company, headed by Jose Luis Escobar Colocuris; there is the "Santa Natalia" and "Santa Cecilia" of the TAMER Company owned by the Tamayo Muller brothers and the "Batan," owned by the Ley brothers.

The White Guards have committed murders, up to now unpunished, such as that of Porfirio Rodriguez in 1982 in the "Santa Natalia" farm owned by the Tamayo brothers. The chief of security in "El Gato" is Marcos Parra, a criminal who came down from the mountains after committing homicide in Badiraguato. The chief of security in "Moroleon" is Manuel Payan, who is considered one of the most cruel of the vigilance guards. Recently he wounded three workers and beat Rosendo Clemente brutally. Four common land (ejido) leaders of "El Bueycito" in the municipality of Mocorito were killed in 1982, and in 1970 the father of the Avila brothers murdered a worker because he objected to him raping his daughter, and in the "Oaxaca" farm, worker leader Benito Garcia was tenaciously persecuted. The most recent incident took place last week in "La Estrella," when Ceferino Bonillas, in the name of the day workers, demanded 30,000 per person to pay for unpaid travel fares. All were evicted and threatened with death.

In a tour through the areas producing tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, eggplant, peas, onions, melons and watermelons, the subhuman conditions under which the workers lived--they come mainly from the states of Veracruz, Zacatecas, Guerrero and Oaxaca, brought there in cattle trucks--were confirmed. They live in unhealthful sheds built mainly of paperboard sheets without even drinking water or latrines.

Felip Gonzalez Gurrola, legal adviser of the FIOACS, in a study on farm workers and the violation of their labor rights, says: This labor force of more than 300,000 is made to work more than 8 hours per day. Conditions under which they work are inhuman. The picking of vegetables, for example, must be done regardless of whether they have been irrigated and are wet, or whether the spraying airplane is spraying fumigating solutions on the backs of the workers. Under these working conditions, the workers have no protection. In violations of overtime and nonsharing of profits, the farmers make a fortune, if we consider that every day 800 tons of vegetables are exported to the United States, and that 300,000 crates are the equivalent of \$1 million.

The first attempt to "regularize" the White Guards was made in February and March 1984, when the Judicial Police of the state, under the direction of Herman Lauffer Mendoza, trained 43 guards for 16 farmers in a program to insure the protection of the landowners, complementing them with personal from the agencies of public order and the Pan-American Service. The program was cut short as soon as the director of the State Judicial Police was changed. The measures being processed, as well as the records of registration of the vigilance bodies, were invalidated by the new leadership. At the end of 1986, the inventory of White Guards and their weapons was continued by the new director of the State Judicial Police, Bernardo Riveros, who did not complete the register because he was removed from his post. However, it was continued around the middle of December last year by General Reta Trigos.

It was on 27 January last year that Deputy Lopez Zavala rose from his seat to say: "In a very cynical way there is a provocation and the constitution is being violated. At the request of General Rodolfo Reta Trigos, one hears on the radio the call to the farmers of Culiacan Valley to register their guards and protection groups. I agree that the farmers need security but that they should resort to that which is constitutionally established. One thing we must be against and that is that they create White Guards outside the constitution. There is no way to organize freely in the rural area because these guards, whenever they feel like it, throw out the leaders at high-powered gun point. There are people who are murderers, who have come out of jails, at the service of the farmers; they are paid gunmen. I therefore suggest that this LII Legislature close ranks against this activity, which indiscriminately harms the men of the fields."

Two days later, PRI Deputy Victor Manuel Barrantes Maldonado, representative of the farmers, came out in their defense: "Comrade Deputies, Culiacan Valley is recognized nationally and internationally because of its highly technical, and efficient agriculture that generates 2.5 million days of work in the private horticulture-agriculture sector. We know that the infrastructure created for providing total civil protection is not enough in quantity or quality. That is why in the rural zones, the person most affected, primarily the farmers, have resorted to the open and private protection of their property, in this case machinery and equipment, installations, monetary funds and internal civil protection. With the registration of the vigilance bodies, fundamental effects are achieved: A strict control of weapons and the people who use them, and problems are avoided or at least acts of violence against the property of others is reduced."

At the end of the 29 January session of the Chamber, it was agreed to create a commission to meet that same day with General Reta Trigos. PRI Deputies Roberto Perez Jacobo, Victor Manuel Barrantes Maldonado, Raul Rene Rosas Echavarria, Enrique Ferrer Gomez and Humberto Gomez Campana were appointed for that purpose. From the PAN came Esteban Zamora Camacho, Jorge del Rincon Bernal and Javier Calvo Manrique, while from the coalition of the left came Ramon Rodrigo Lopez Zavala, Ramon Villegas Felix and Isaias Leal Escobosa.

Interviewed in the library of the Congress, Deputy Lopez Zavala said that under cover of a military commander, a pseudolegal framework is sought for the farmers and their White Guards by means of an unconstitutional action, because pursuant to Section III of Article 65 and Sections I and II of Article 125 of the local constitution and as is established in the Federal Constitution, there can be no police agencies other than the Judicial, Municipal or Preventive.

"During the meeting with General Reta Trigos," recalls the deputy, "he told us that his function would last until the moment the registration of the security groups and their weapons was concluded. From then on it would be the responsibility of the governor whether he kept them in or out of the law. I told him that we shall acknowledge the positive action of the army but that in this case we are going to investigate and obtain proof so as to bring it before the courts. This changed his expression."

Lopez Zavala then reported that the faction of the left is preparing a document which it will present soon to the Congress and the governor in which they will demand the abolishment of the White Guards.

A deadline of 10 February was set for the registration of these guard groups, and punishments contained in the Federal Law on Firearms and Explosives and its regulation were established for those who do not register. Military authorities signed an agreement with each of the farmers, making them responsible for the proper use of weapons and personnel. Moreover, identification cards were issued to the members of the guards containing personal information, photographs, background, signatures and fingerprints. This document was channeled to the IX Military Zone and to the state government by the Association of Farmers of the Culiacan River.

One of these cards says:

"Secretariat of National Defense, Government of the State of Sinaloa. I Jorge Luis Rodarte Salazar, proprietor (administrator) of Agricultural Area 5 1/2 Tejon, pledge that the security personnel who work in this field shall not bear their weapons outside the area that makes it up and that the content of the Federal Law on Firearms and its Regulations shall be strictly observed. Following is the list of personnel and weapons that provide security service in this agricultural area: Benjamin Ramirez Ortiz, Francisco Molina Beltran, Aldo Sanchez Martinez, Jose Felix Leon, Loreto Felix Sicairos, Leandro Aguirre Barraza. Weapons: Sawed-off 1 and 12 gauge shotguns. I also pledge to maintain this list updated." (At the bottom is a seal of the IX Military Zone and the titles of General Rodolfo Reta Trigos and the governor of the state with no signatures).

Questioned on this matter, the Attorneys Association and the Human Rights Commission of Sinaloa agreed on the illegality of the registration of the White Guards because the Military Zone has no jurisdiction, nor is it within its authority to question the existence or nonexistence of these groups, the authority belonging to the civil authorities, and that in any case, the Judicial and Municipal Police should be strengthened. They also cited the low moral quality of these security agents, which should prevent their incorporation into the established police agencies and they, therefore, demand their immediate abolishment.

Doctor Norma Corona, president of the Human Rights Commission, declares that within the framework of the violence in which the state lives, those groups began to proliferate. "The most serious thing is that the new Organic Law of the Attorney General's Office of the State, which was just approved last week, stipulates the possibility of having auxiliary police if those sectors that require them meet a number of requirements. We are not in agreement with the creation of new bodies outside the law because the risk is run of forming paramilitary groups."

Ismael Arenas Espinoza, Carlos Gilberto Moran Cortes and Octavio Aguilar padilla, president, former president, and member of the Eustaquio Bueina Lawyers Association, said that it is false that with the pretext of safeguarding order in the agricultural area, where there is no crime, the White Guards are kept under control. The former explained: "The truth is that behind their appearance they operate against the peasants. They make sure they crush any dissatisfaction the agricultural workers may express because of poor working conditions, over-exploitation and low wages. This should be abolished for once and for all by one means or another. In the future there should be no special groups under the orders of the landowners."

For Jesus Oscar Sapiens, president of the Clemente Vizcarra Lawyers Association, there is a judicial disorder in Sinaloa. "The registration of the White Guards is completely illegal. Moreover I ask myself: "Where do these very powerful and forbidding weapons they carry come from? I have the impression that even former policemen are working as security agents in the agricultural fields. If a halt is not made here, within a short time we shall even have guards in our homes because the people are terrified in the state. There is no calm, there are no safeguards, there is nothing."

8908

CSO: 3248/311

VENEZUELAN ENVOY SEES 'NO THREAT' TO PORT-OF-SPAIN TIES

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 28 Apr 87 p 1

[Article by Andy Johnson]

[Text]

THERE IS NO "threat" to relations between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. And the disputed fishing treaty between the two countries is "as close to perfect a document as documents can get."

This is Venezuelan Ambassador Maria Clemencia Lopez-Jiminez's response to suggestions that constant clashes between Trinidad fishermen and Venezuelan Coast Guard patrols was threatening relations between Port of Spain and Caracas.

Officials at the Ministry of External Affairs in Port of Spain told the *Express* last week that the minister had pointed out to the Venezuelan Charge D'Affaire in Port of Spain the threat to relations with the latest arrests and detentions of fishermen in Venezuela.

But brushing this aside yesterday, the Ambassador said: "Our relations are as good as ever."

The lady diplomat who was on holiday two weeks ago when the latest incidents took place involving the arrest and

detention of 22 Cedros fishermen in Guiria, said: "We have done a lot (to improve relations) in the last two years and we cannot destroy that in one day."

She said, however, the fishermen needed to be educated more on what was possible under the existing fishing treaty.

"The treaty is as close to perfect as a document can get," she said, adding that what was needed was "for us to find a way for perfect implementation." (The treaty has been criticised by spokesmen for the National Alliance for Reconstruction and a University of the West Indies professor has said it favours Venezuelan interests).

Echoing a point raised by Trinidad and Tobago Ambassador to Venezuela Christopher Thomas, Lopez-Jiminez said she did not agree that the arrest and detention of legitimate fishermen was the route to be taken every time an incident occurred.

But using a map of the area showing the small band of water between Trinidad and Venezuela, the Ambassador said Cedros fishermen usually strayed from the

stretch of common waters agreed to and ended up in the mouth of a river in the Orinoco delta.

"The flora and fauna of the mangrove swamp is damaged as a result and in 20 years the area will be destroyed and the very livelihood of the fishermen would be destroyed," she said.

In a two-part interview published last week in the *Caracas Daily Journal*, Ambassador Thomas spoke of the "unfortunate publicity" generated in the Trinidad press about the incidents.

He said there were a lot of positive developments between the two countries, intensified during the last two years. He also felt that there could be a less harsh way of dealing with infractions of the fishing treaty. Both he and his counterpart in Port of Spain favoured joint patrols of the fishing area as well as the political education of the military units involved.

The Venezuelan Ambassador said: "I agree when we make decisions at the highest levels, often it does not get right down the line, as it is supposed to."

ROBINSON: OIL ALONE NOT ENOUGH; DIVERSIFICATION NEEDED

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 4 May 87 p 7

[Article by Harry Partap]

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER A.N.R. Robinson said yesterday the government could not ignore the continuing significant role of oil in the national economy. But, he said, the new government was committed to taking up the challenge of diversification.

Robinson was addressing a luncheon marking the seventh anniversary of the establishment of the Borough of Point Fortin. He was welcomed at the Town Hall by Mayor Victor Chin Kit. Guests included Mrs Robinson, Point Fortin M.P. Selby Wilson, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister responsible for Local Government Dr Brinsley Samaroo and members of the diplomatic corps.

"We expect," the Prime Minister said, "that Point Fortin will be in the forefront of the new thrust in the future, as it has been in the vanguard in the past."

Robinson told the people of Point Fortin that under the present economic conditions it was important that they went back to their agricultural roots.

Said Robinson: "Historically, your town has its origins in isolated cocoa and coconut estates.

"Since the first oil well was drilled in 1907, agriculture has played a less important role in your development. But

in our present economic circumstances, I urge you to think again about your agricultural roots."

He added: "Point Fortin has a role to play in the revival of the coconut industry, for example, in the development of new technologies and processes that can put that industry on its feet." He said that new ideas, initiatives and processes must be encouraged.

He said the Industrial Development Corporation, the Agricultural Development Bank, and the research and development institutions were being reorganised to provide incentives and encouragement in these efforts.

Robinson said that the people must combine new technologies with the maximum utilisation of raw materials to produce indigenous products. He said Point Fortin could develop agriculture in the drive towards self-sufficiency in food production.

/13046

CSO: 3298/215

PNM'S MANNING COMMENTS ON ROBINSON, NAR ACTIONS, VIEWS

Criticism of Robinson Address

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 27 Apr 87 p 2

[Text]

THE ECONOMIC future of Trinidad and Tobago will depend on the oil industry for much of the foreseeable future, Opposition Leader Patrick Manning said Saturday. And he added, therefore, that no plan for economic revival in the country could hinge around anything else but that.

In this regard, Manning stomped all over the state of the nation address delivered last Wednesday night by Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, saying it contained "not one single word" about the oil industry. Calling it "shameful" and declaring that the Government had now clearly demonstrated that it had no plan for reviving the economy, Manning said the speech was prepared after a Cabinet retreat on the premises of an oil company.

Addressing a mini-convention of the opposition People's National Movement in Fyzabad, Manning later outlined his own three-point plan for recharging the economy and for the provision of much needed jobs.

"We have to operate on the basis of the resources we have,"

Manning told an enthusiastic audience at the auditorium of the Fyzabad Senior Comprehensive School. He said the country was "blessed with large reserves of natural gas," with an infrastructure and an industrial base developed by the PNM. This, he said, included iron and steel, urea, methanol and ammonia.

He said the Government first had to expeditiously determine a price for natural gas because it was on that basis investment was going to be attracted. Then, he

said, the Government should revise the tax structure relating to oil production and exploration.

"The new tax regime must encourage the enhancement of secondary recovery methods," Manning said. "It must also encourage exploration for new sources of oil as well as making additional acreage available for international concerns.

"The Government should also decide what level of oil production it wanted for the country and decide what incentives it would create to achieve that," Manning added.

He said, however, that the Prime Minister was afraid to review the tax structure for the petroleum industry in a time like this. "It is a situation of damned if you do and damned if you don't but if you don't you are damned forever," he added.

Saying that it was only on such a basis could any government talk about being able to diversify the economy, Manning said there was no argument that the country needed to grow more of the food it consumed.

But, he said, illustrating his point, the economy benefitted by US\$3 million day with oil prices at \$18 a barrel. "You know how many tomatoes we would have to grow for that?" he asked rhetorically, saying that oil did not spoil and there was not enough land in the country to grow the amount of crops it would require to meet that compensation.

Manning also ridiculed the Prime Minister's announcement of the 14 development projects, saying that only one of them — the court house for Chaguanas — was not already in the works.

Speech to Party Conference

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 4 May 87 p 1

[Article by Ria Taitt]

[Text]

OPPOSITION Leader Patrick Manning has hit out at what he has described as a "recalcitrant minority" in the People's National Movement.

Speaking on Saturday evening at the eastern regional conference of his party at the Arima Senior Comprehensive School, Manning said these were the persons who were obstructing the process of re-organisation of the party. He said the voices emerged from the time of the announcement of the six Senators. "You heard this one was not PNM and that one was not a PNM."

Even if Augustus Ramrekersingh was not a PNM at the time of his appointment, he had been campaigning actively for the party along the East-West Corridor, "making a better contribution than them," he said.

Manning said the PNM had a mandate to re-organise itself "in the face of a wicked, malicious and vindictive government." He said the measures taken towards this re-organisation process had been approved by the General Council. "But in the same way you had voices in the wilderness before, we have them again. My advice to you, ladies and gentlemen: consider them as nothing but the machinations of a recalcitrant minority."

Manning spoke of "recent blunders made by the government." One involved the announcements by Lincoln Myers, Minister of Food Production, that government had planned to ban the importation of Uncle Ben rice. "When was the last time any of you saw Uncle Ben on the shelves? Uncle Ben has not

been in this country for a long time," he said laughing.

Manning said the next blunder was made by Labour Minister Dr Albert Richards, who took a decision in direct opposition to the Cabinet of which he is a member. "He was part of the Cabinet which advised the withdrawal of COLA and now he turns around and writes the Commission saying that the withdrawal of COLA should be reconsidered."

Manning also referred to the Guayamare case. He said Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson in his address to the nation said the government had reached settlement with the residents for a lower price than the original figure. "The night after a representative for the residents comes and says they are not going there; they want to go where the PNM was sending them and then later on the owner of the property where they are supposed to go says his land is not available," Manning said.

Manning also touched on the question of current tension between the government and the Central Bank. He said it was bad enough for the government to intimidate public servants, take their COLA, attempt to amend the Constitution, but to attempt to usurp the independence of the Central Bank was another matter. He noted Minister of Works, Settlement and Infrastructure John Humphrey's statements on government adamance to move into the Central Bank, that if anyone is leaving the Central Bank block, it will not be the Prime Minister.

The People's National Movement has decided to invite nominations for the Local government elections.

Further Details

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 May 87 p 6

[Article by John E. Kassie]

[Text]

ARIMA—"THE PEOPLE of Trinidad and Tobago have realised, in a short time, that they have made a fundamental mistake in voting the present Government into power. What you have now is a Government-at-large, and devil take the hindmost."

This was the opening salvo by Opposition Leader Patrick Manning, when he addressed a relatively small crowd of representatives from Arouca-Arima Constituencies on Saturday afternoon, at Arima Senior Comprehensive School.

It was the Opposition party's third regional meeting, billed as an "orientation visit" by the new political

leader.

Mr Manning's contribution was made two hours after previous speakers, Senators Keith Rowley, Kenneth Valley and Augustus Ramrekersingh had led on onslaught on the NAR Government, with Senator Valley being particularly hard-hitting.

He charged that for 30 years there had been an orderly development of democratic institutions, emphasis on cherished freedoms, respect for rule of law, separation of powers, the concept that one was innocent until proven guilty, and complete and total respect for the office of the President.

Coalition Will Self-Destruct

"But the coalition will self-destruct," said Senator Valley, "before this lovely land is destroyed by the action of madmen."

Mr Manning referred to the number of situations in which statements by the Prime Minister had been queried or contradicted by the public, and members of his own party casting doubt on what was to be believed.

"It would appear that members of this Government have a different concept of the principle that the words of politicians are their bonds," he stressed, hinting that the extreme and irresponsible statements by some of the current Ministers would certainly justify revoking certain portfolios. In any effective administration, the Minister concerned would be "axed."

"The behaviour of many of them—not equipped to hold high office—is symptomatic of the fact that it is the end of the honeymoon, and the lack of appreciation of the seriousness of the critical issues confronting them. Insensitivity to the real problems in society merely reflects the poisonous touch they place on everything that is handled," he charged.

Errors Now Known

It was touching a raw nerve for Arimians when Mr Manning referred to the decision to provide a "health facility" for the borough, when the Budget stated that a new hospital was included in the development projects.

"We promised you a new hospital, but they are giving you something else, in the same way that promises were made in the manifesto for a \$12,000 personal income tax allowance," the Opposition Leader said.

Throwing a broad hint to the audience that "the errors of your ways are now known, having put the NAR into power," Mr Manning exhorted the constituents to prepare themselves for the forthcoming Local Government elections, on which the General Council has advised that the process of inviting nominations should be started.

He had informed them, earlier, that "the reorganisation of the party had to be done in the shortest possible time, notwithstanding the presence of the malicious, the vindictive, and the machinations of a recalcitrant minority."

/13046

CSO: 3298/215

NAR UNDERGOES CHANGES; ADMINISTRATION CRITICIZED

New Party Constitution

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 27 Apr 87 p 3

[Text]

A NEW PARTY constitution for the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) was adopted yesterday after five hours of deliberation at the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Trade Union (SWWTU) Hall, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain.

National Security Minister Herbert Atwell, chairman of the NAR, told delegates at the special constituency conference that the exercise, involving "amiable" and some heated discussion, was "unparalleled" and that no one present could say they were not able to make a contribution. The conference had begun on April 11 when there was time only to discuss and adopt the first five of the 20 articles in the party constitution, and a number of amendments to the draft version were proposed and accepted when the conference resumed yesterday.

"The constitution is a document to facilitate efficient running of the party," Atwell emphasised, "and both vigilance and observation of the spirit of the party constitution are of the utmost importance as with the national Constitution."

The amended version of the new party constitution is now to be edited and published by the NAR's National Council and copies made available to the party membership.

"The party is in good hands under our political leader," Atwell declared, "and today's procedures will help ensure the NAR will run Trinidad and Tobago until the year 2000 at least."

"We have made tremendous progress since we met here for our inaugural conference...in

spite of the propaganda we faced and the difficulty of obtaining venues for our conferences," Atwell added, "but some people would still do anything to split us asunder, which is why we must cling to our principles."

He maintained that these principles meant party members must be completely committed to Trinidad and Tobago through every day, month and year.

Among those present at yesterday's conference were Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, who is political leader of the NAR, general-secretary Dr Beau Tewarie, assistant general-secretary Philip Nunez, Roy Augustus, junior Finance and Works Ministers Trevor Sudama and Dr Carson Charles, and Members of Parliament including Jensen Fox and Oswald Hamlen.

Youth-Arm Changes

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 27 Apr 87 p 3

[Text]

THE RENAMING of the National Youth Organisation (NYO), youth arm of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), and lowering of the upper age limit for its members were two of the items that drew heated discussion at the NAR's Special Constitution Conference at the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Trade Union (SWWTU) Hall yesterday.

The NYO is now to be known as the National Organisation for Youth Development (NOYD), placing emphasis on the new direction of the party's plans for its young supporters, and members must be between the ages of 15 and 30, and not 35 as formerly obtained. This means that current president of the NAR's youth arm, junior Works Minister Dr Carson Charles, 31, and a number of others will no longer be eligible for membership.

It also means the youth arm will have no representative in Parliament and, according to some young delegates, will take away the body of experience provided by youth members between 30 and 35.

The amendment to Article 10 of the draft constitution, accepted in full yesterday, which put the changes into effect, was passed quickly by party delegates and appeared to take some members of the youth arm present by surprise. The *Express* was told these amendments to draft proposals from the youth arm, incorporated in the new version of the party constitution, would be discussed at a party youth

conference, likely to take place before the NAR's annual conference tentatively planned for the end of June.

Ideas coming from the youth conference are to be taken to the party's National Council for consideration.

Otherwise, the structure of the youth arm now conforms with the proposals made by its members, in spite of concern expressed by some delegates that the youth body appeared to be becoming a "parallel party" with offices and functions similar to the NAR itself. This "paranoia" was dismissed by Dr Charles and others who stressed the role played by young supporters in the December 15 general election and noted the youth arm was still closely linked to the party and directed by it.

Other sections of the new party constitution that drew intense debate at yesterday's conference were Articles 6, 7 and 8, dealing with party structure and membership of party bodies including constituency councils, constituency executives, and constituency annual and special conferences, as well as Article 9 which deals with the NAR's women's arm, the National Organisation of Women (NOW).

The conference accepted the proposal that the general-secretary should serve a three-year term, and not one year as obtains at present, and this post should be full-time and its holder adequately remunerated.

Spending Excesses

Curepe THE BOMB in English 1 May 87 pp 14-15

[Text]

THREE MONTHS after his budget presentation, Prime Minister ANR Robinson released his 'secret' estimates of the revenue and expenditure of the statutory boards and similar bodies for this year.

Robinson, however, did not do any cutting back on expenses that led to the pot holes in the Treasury, but did uplift the status quo of the PNM-ites who control the statutory bodies ...

havens for the bush-masters.

Take for instance the now-disbanded National Housing Authority which has a salary and wage bill of \$46m for 403 workers.

Among the lot are scores of engineers, designers, architects, you name it they are in the NHA.

Yet the Authority has to spend more than a million dollars yearly on consultancy services.

Expenditure for this year is \$63m and to meet the cost, the State is under-writing \$51m.

The lifestyle in NHA is among the highest for any state body.

It works out at an average of \$100,000 to upkeep a single worker on the job and it is anybody's guess who are the beneficiaries here.

Over at the Airports Authority, another bushmaster project, the Government is subsidising the cost of operations by \$23m.

Overall expenditure is \$39m.

The most lucrative project at the Piarco international airport is the car park where the rates have been dropped from \$3 to \$2 per hour.

The forecast is \$2m in dues from the public car park compared with \$1.7m in rental of terminals, land and hangars.

It seems that the Airports Authority is in the wrong business, it should have been running car parks all over the country, instead.

Here officers are at liberty to borrow from the AA.

More than \$400,000 is put aside for loans to officers

and a further \$521,000 for travelling by the handful of workers recruited under the regime of the balisier.

There are 713 permanent staff at the AA, 180 of whom are security personnel, the rest administrative, with a handful of cleaners, handymen and labourers.

This authority is 50 percent overstaffed.

It has scores of retirees from other services who have been dumped at the airport to await the maker.

Osmond Kerr who is not far from his 70th birthday, is head of security at a time when airports around the world are under siege from terrorists.

This old man whose weapon is a 16 guage shotgun, will lead his merry bunch of boy scouts to do battle with terrorists in the 21st century should the need arise.

This has to be a joke coming down from Brigadier Joffre Serrette, the former head of the AA who wanted a white horse to ride up and down in the runway.

At WASA, the operating deficit for this year will be \$225m, a cut of \$9m from 1985.

Expenditure is \$331m, and revenue is just over \$105m.

A Government loan of \$194m is to keep WASA liquid for 1987.

The pay bill at the PNM nest will be \$227m for its 6,000 workers of whom 2,548 are monthly paid and the rest daily paid.

The average pay for a WASA worker is \$345,000 a year or \$28,750 a month.

WASA is 80 per cent overstaffed.

WASA has more engineers and technical staff than the whole country, yet it will pay \$2m this year for consultancy services along engineering lines.

Again, WASA has the most modern earth moving, digging and pipe laying equipment yet it will spend more than \$2m to rent equipment.

It will spend \$5m for truck borne water, \$3m for road reinstatement, \$3m for hired transport, \$3.4m for travelling and \$1.2m for telephone.

Why is there still On Call Allowance for

WASA bushmasters?

Overtime for those lazy bones amount to \$9m.

Yes, Robbie \$9m for overtime while the brutes do not move a shovel or pickaxe during normal working hours, but there is a bag filled with \$9m for daily-paid and another bag with \$8m for the monthly paid.

Almost \$20m in overtime and on call allowance for a nest-full of vipers who go out of their way to make the rest of the country cry long tears for water.

Toco Joe, that's Joe Toney, the man who turned his rear on the people who gave him a decent job, is in charge of WASA, Port Authority, Airports Authority and the feeling is that there is no change.

Toco Joe does not see anything wrong with \$20m in overtime and bogus payments going down the drain.

But such is life in snake country where men have to literally crawl on their bellies to survive like serpents.

Tewarie on Bureaucracy

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 2 May 87 p 2

[Text]

NATIONAL Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) general secretary, Dr Beau Tewarie, said the nationalistic nature of the first party government created a highly politicised bureaucracy which must now be neutralised in the interest of the nation.

Dr Tewarie made the point in an address to the monthly meeting of the South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce on Thursday night. The meeting was chaired by the president Peter Quentrall-Thomas.

Dr Tewarie said one of the main tasks ahead, was to develop a neutral bureaucracy in the society. Said he: "No political system in the world can continue to exist in a condition of order unless

it has a fairly efficient bureaucracy."

He said Trinidad and Tobago had a special problem because it had a party government for the first time in 1956 and then the first change came 30 years later. Said Dr Tewarie: "The problem was that in a highly politicised and very small country such as ours in which the first party government was really a nationalist movement, the bureaucracy itself became highly politicised. Therefore in order to make that neutral, we have to find the means of ensuring that the people in the bureaucracy understood that the nation was bigger than the party."

House Speaker's Criticism

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 6 May 87 p 1

[Article by Ria Taitt]

[Text]

SPEAKER of the House of Representatives, Nizam Mohammed, hit out against the "corruption and discrimination" in the Development and Environmental Works Division at a meeting in his constituency yesterday.

In speaking of his recent experiences with senior DEWD personnel, Mohammed criticised several of his colleagues, especially Junior Minister in the Ministry of Works, Settlement and Infrastructure, Dr Carson Charles whom he called a Johnny-come-lately and accused him of being arrogant.

Mohammed made an urgent call on the Government to reconstruct the imbalance in the DEWD programme as he compared the number of projects in operation between Tabaquite and its adjoining constituencies — 11 in Pointe-a-Pierre, 16-21 to Caroni East, 10 to Nariva, two to Naparima, seven in Princes Town and none in Tabaquite.

The DEWD projects, he argued, were drawn up by those "PNM henchmen" who still control DEWD. "Humphrey (Works Minister John Humphrey) must understand that and do something about that." Stating that the very men in charge of the programme were the men who discriminated against him as an opposition

member up to December 1986, he called for justice and fairplay.

"They have succeeded in worming their way in the hearts of those who are supposed to change the structure of DEWD. I cannot understand. My conscience bothers me. Brothers and sisters, I want Mr Humphrey to know... and I am not attacking him... I want him to know that had it not been for

these very opposition constituencies, he would not have had about nine years experience in Parliament. And Mr Humphrey as a matter of conscience ought to put aside everything else and correct this imbalance and this injustice."

On Junior Minister, Carson Charles, Mohammed was more severe as he described his experiences with him.

Said he: "I phoned for the Minister, they told me the Minister was busy on another phone, he will return the call. I waited all day and the Minister did not return the call. So I humbled myself and I phoned the Minister the following day. Only to be told that the Minister had left and he will be out of the country for two to three weeks.

"Now that kind of arrogance I have absolutely no intention of tolerating. Dr Carson Charles may have come recently and he is occupying or looking after a portfolio as a minister but you see me, brothers and sisters, 15 long years I have been fighting in order to change the PNM and now that I have given myself and my blood to change the PNM, I have no intention of tolerating that kind of arrogance from any Johnny-come-lately."

Stating that the people of Tabaguite were being treated like dogs, Mohammed compared the constituency with the case of Tobago, which he said had just 125 electors more than Tabaguite.

"I have no quarrel...Tobago is separated from Trinidad, by a mass of

water and the peculiarities of Tobago as a separate island and all of that... one million dollars voted for DEWD in Tobago, I am so happy for the people of Tobago because that is an indication that the discrimination against Tobago is being looked after.

"But why is it they will not look after the constituency of Tabaguite in the same way? Is it because the Prime Minister comes from Tobago so that these ministers want to favour the Prime Minister and they could completely discriminate against Tabaguite because the Member for Tabaguite, he is the Speaker and he is not supposed to mount a public platform.

"Well brothers and sisters, I tell you if I have to do it night after night and if there are those in those constituencies that are being discriminated against and they do not want to speak on behalf of their constituencies, if the people in those constituencies call on me, I will willingly oblige because that is what I laboured for, for the past 15 years.

"Thirty years, 30 long years and when we told you now is the time, I was not lying. I believed every word I said when I stood up on this public platform for the 1986 general election. I believed in everything that I said, that is why I say I will not turn my back on you. I will stand on your side and if I have to fight the Government on this question of discrimination in DEWD, I will not think a second time."

/13046

CSO: 3298/215

OWTU OFFICIAL CITES NAR GOVERNMENT, LABOR MOVEMENT SHORTCOMINGS

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 2 May 87 p 2

[Text]

THE LABOUR movement must rid itself of "parasites" who have been responsible for the inability of the movement to unite.

That was the position expressed by Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) first vice-president Errol McLeod as he addressed a rally of trade union leaders and members at the Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Trade Union Hall during May Day celebrations yesterday.

According to McLeod, workers had protested attacks on them under the People's National Movement (PNM) and still continued to do so under the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) Government because they have failed to come together and because of the presence of "bankrupt and blind leadership."

He charged it was also not in the interest of the Government to have a united trade union movement since if that was the case there would not have been the problem of the withdrawal of COLA at the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC) and the Port Authority.

"But we must blame ourselves as well," he said. The trade union leader declared that the struggle of 1987 was similar to the needs of trade unions 50 years ago with the birth of the modern labour movement, but workers were more interested in listening to the statements of the political directorate than to the union leadership.

McLeod said repeated calls for a one-day strike were not feasible if the entire labour movement was not prepared to call its membership out.

/13046

CSO: 3298/215

GUARDIAN COMMENTS ON RECORD OF NAR GOVERNMENT SO FAR

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 3 May 87 p 6

[Editorial: "Waste of Energy"]

[Text]

HOPES of the perennial agitators among trade union leaders for an outpouring of anger against the new Government and the country's entrepreneurs on May Day were shattered when only about two hundred persons responded to the call to demonstrate around the Red House while Parliament was in session last Friday.

The demonstration was a miserable failure, proof positive that the majority of workers in the country fully understand the seriousness of our present situation and the futility of expending their energies marching in this dreadful dry season.

Once more the majority of our people have shown that they are nobody's fools. They know that the way ahead, without the fiscal sustenance shamelessly wasted by the PNM Government, is going to be rocky.

They know that the stark priority for all of us is keeping our jobs. COLA is almost irrelevant now.

With the scenario for a new global depression currently being written in the geopolitical and geoeconomic theatres, they are painfully aware of the truth that they cannot depend upon any lasting whopping increase in the price of oil to cushion them or remove the need for sacrifice on everyone's part.

Even the transient, rather convenient, linking of the Labour Congress and the Council of Progressive Trade Unions for the day's "celebrations" did not lure the workers to the ranks of the demonstrators because of their deep awareness that the two labour organisations would sooner or later go right back to their persistent bickering, and the workers' belief that "demos" and strikes are the last things they need now, if they ever hope to salvage anything from the ruin of the economy and the rape of the Treasury.

Irresponsible Leaders

Tens of thousands of people are out of work and the private sector is struggling to keep its head above water and to avoid more retrenchment. Against this background the posturing of some of our trade union leaders in stirring up the workers of this country is, to say the least, most irresponsible and dangerous, leading to the sort of scandalous physical assault upon the Mayor of San Fernando last week (which had been preceded weeks ago by the manhandling of several M.Ps on the grounds of the Red House itself.)

Above all, the attitude of the Minister of Labour, Dr. Richards, is incomprehensible, and we cannot understand why the Prime Minister has not yet removed him from the Cabinet. He clearly should not be holding office, since in this most stringent time he seems hellbent on making the situation worse for the workers.

The Prime Minister, Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, has warned the country that the situation is "grim" and that "hard decisions" will have to be made. One such hard decision must be to reshuffle his Cabinet, and prod the Ministers into dealing zealously with everything on their plate, whether it is corruption, revision of tax structure, borrowing of funds, or forcing the economy onto the path of boisterous diversification and innovation.

Although we sincerely hope otherwise, it could well mean that the path ahead is going to mean more loss of jobs.

Do trade union leaders understand this? Do they realise that their brand of leadership is 90 years behind the times, and instead of all this foolishness of marching around like puppets, they should be studying ways and means of helping to boost the economy, not delight in contributing to confusion, chaos, and disaster?

The one hopeful sign amid the crisis is that the workers of the country are beginning to disregard such empty leadership. Sooner than we think, the only people marching will be the so-called leaders.

/13046
CSO: 3298/215

OWTU APPROVES WEEKES' CONTINUED SERVICE IN SENATE

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 3 May 87 p 3

[Text]

THE general council of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU) has passed a resolution re-affirming a decision that the president-general George Weekes continues to serve as an independent senator on the government benches.

The general council also re-affirmed the decision that Weekes serve as the union's representative on the Boards of Trinidad and Tobago Oil Co (Trintoc) and the Trinidad and Tobago Petroleum Co (Trintopec). The general council passed these resolution on April 25.

Following attacks on Weekes by certain trade union leaders after the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) 'suspended the cost of living allowances (COLA), Weekes invited the general council to give "objective consideration as to whether it is in the interest of all concerned that he should continue to serve as a Senator." According to

a statement signed by OWTU general secretary Doodnath Maharaj, "He (Weekes) then requested the general council to discuss and decide upon the issue. The discussion was scheduled for the April statutory meeting during which time the officers of the General Council had the opportunity to discuss the matter with the membership."

The executive committee ruled that Weekes continue in the Senate and use every opportunity to expose issues affecting workers and dispossessed people. The central executive also submitted that "in recognition of his leadership of the struggles for nationalization of the resources of Trinidad and Tobago and as a means of continuing to advance the interests of the workers in oil, Weekes should be the union's nominee on the Boards of Directors of the oil companies."

/13046

CSO: 3298/215

END

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

11 Aug. 198

M.T.